

## Union slams journalist's arrest by Israel

AMMAN (R) — Israel's arrest of Palestinian reporter Taher Shritah was denounced Wednesday by the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists. The arrest of Mr. Shritah, a correspondent for Reuters, "is an act of shutting up mouths and clamping a blackout on the inhuman and brutal acts committed by Israel against the rights of our people," the union said in a statement. It urged Arab and international journalists to "pressure the occupiers to release Shritah and all the detained Palestinian journalists, and also to reopen the information centres, stations and offices closed by the military administration." The union, which is the Palestine Liberation Organisation's official press organ, said that the journalists are detained by Israel. Mr. Shritah was taken from Gaza City home Monday. Israeli officials have declined to say why he was arrested.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

to haul  
sene to  
hern Iraq

AMMAN (R) — U.N. trucks will soon begin to haul wheat from Turkey to northern Iraq, where Kurds face a winter, Turkish Foreign Minister Ferhat Attal Wednesday. An international coordination committee, based in Ankara Tuesday, decided to prepare to send thousands of flour provided by the World Food Programme to the southern port of Mersin. The international winter relief operation, Iraqi Kurds began on Tuesday and has so far delivered wheat, oil, and seed chick-peas and medical aid, Mr. Attalan said.

arrests bandit,  
Pakistan pact

AMMAN (R) — Iran, calling for security cooperation with Afghanistan, said it had dined an Afghan border band of crimes ranging from stealing 10 tonnes of wheat, Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a visit with Pakistani Minister Ghous Ali said that turmoil and ban Afghanistan and the Balkans required improved links between the two nations. "The situation in Afghanistan and Balkan countries is the presence of foreign troops in the region make joint regional countries, Iran and Pakistan, for security," Mr. Rafsanjani said in a report carried by Radio.

expects Qatar  
and summit

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabia expects Qatar to attend next summit of the heads of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Abu Dhabi, a Saudi official said Wednesday. "What is it for Qatar to attend Doha summit and this is expected," the official said, as boycotted ministerial meeting of the GCC over the months following its clash in September, foreign minister, Sheikh Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani said on the border with Saudi King Fahd in Tuesday, the second such one month.

nd staff strike at  
ian airline

AMMAN (R) — Maintenance staff of Algeria's national airline, disrupted international flights on the first full day of the strike over pay. Radio said Air Algérie operate 22 out of the 33 and overseas flights for the day. The union intimated service would be for charter, cargo and flights. Air Algérie man in a statement to the news agency APS said it was the first time the staff salaries had been doubled in November with the previous. The technicians started a strike on Tuesday. Algerian officials were unable to comment on talks were planned.

ia: 50,000 Tajiks  
ghanistan

AMMAN (R) — More than 50,000 refugees have fled from the central Asian state into neighbouring Iran, the Russian Foreign said on Wednesday.

Israel plans tougher  
anti-Palestinian action

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet Wednesday discussed a new crackdown on Palestinians after an Israeli soldier was kidnapped and killed.

While family and friends prepared to bury the 29-year-old soldier, Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told army radio:

"The cabinet debated a very long list of measures. When these steps are put into effect, the public will surely know."

Yitzhak Shamir, former prime minister and head of the right-wing Likud Party, described Arabs as people who "enjoy every murder" and called for an aggressive fight against extremists.

But liberals worried such a strategy would backfire and urged, instead, that Israel try to work with moderate Palestinians, including the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Israel human rights group B'tselem urged the Rabin government to block "collective punishment," including the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying "these measures primarily harm those who have had no connection to the events of recent days."

Palestinians from the occupied territories have been barred from entering Israel since Monday, and all Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are confined to their homes by an army curfew.

Toledano, 29, who was kidnapped by members of the fundamentalist Hamas movement,

was found dead Tuesday morning in the occupied West Bank. He had been taken Sunday from the central Israeli town of Lod.

Toledano was buried Wednesday in the coastal city of Haifa. Preliminary autopsy reports indicated Toledano was stabbed to death.

The death reportedly occurred after the Monday night deadline the captors had set for exchanging Toledano for imprisoned Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed on Tuesday to wage war "without mercy" on Hamas.

"The world should not be surprised if this time we'll have to take very tough measures," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

In a speech to parliament, Mr. Rabin said more than 1,200 Palestinians had been rounded up in strikes against Hamas members "that will continue without mercy."

Mr. Rabin accused Hamas of trying to torpedo Israel's nearly 14-month-old peace talks with Palestinians. Hamas is the main rival in the occupied territories to the PLO, which has backed the talks.

Israel has also detained Reuters Gaza correspondent Taher Shritah, a part-time reporter for the U.S. television network CBS, the New York Times. France's Le Monde, the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation. All wrote to Mr. Rabin

seeking his immediate release.

Mr. Shamir told Israel radio that the left-centre government should be broadened to include right-wing parties.

He accused Mr. Rabin's government of "a steady appeasement of terrorism" and called for harsh steps against the Palestinians.

"We have known the Arabs for many years... and we know that these people have no respect for human life," Mr. Shamir said.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram of the ruling Labour Party told Israel Radio: I'm for a determined war against terror, but I'm also for serious compromises in the peace talks.

He argued that Israel's strategy of cutting the PLO out of the peace process "helped the emergence of Hamas."

Today Hamas is the most destructive force, and those who don't talk to the only force in the Arab World with which one can talk (the PLO) will find it difficult to make peace," Mr. Baram said.

Two Palestinian groups have called for the U.N. Security Council to be convened to discuss Israel's crackdown in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine also urged an immediate pullout of Palestinian negotiators from the peace talks.

"The Israeli authorities have declared a state of war against the West Bank and Gaza after the failure of the repressive measures," a PFLP statement said.

Attas urges  
national unity

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen's Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas has called for national reconciliation, saying for the first time that rivalry between the two ruling parties was harming the united state.

"Without national reconciliation between the two partners and with other political forces, the cabinet finds itself unable to shoulder its national responsibility," Mr. Attas told the ruling presidential council in a letter published in the government daily Al Thawra Wednesday.

Opposition sources said earlier with Mr. Attas submitted his resignation to President Ali Abdullah Saleh following price riots last week in which 12 people were killed.

The sources said Mr. Saleh rejected his resignation, while some members of Mr. Attas' Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) — which ruled former South Yemen before the 1990 unity accord with the North — also advised him not to quit.

"The relationship between the GPC and YSP constitutes the basic element of the general political atmosphere. This unstable and tense relationship has discharged negative reflections on the general political situation," Mr. Attas said in the letter.

It represented the first time the government has acknowledged that the tense alliance and rivalry between the YSP and Mr. Saleh's GPC, which ruled the former North Yemen, was harming the united country.

According to a 50-50 power sharing deal, the two parties, which diplomats say have major ideological differences, were to rule Yemen.

## Peace talks seen to await Clinton

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli and Arab negotiators have exchanged draft proposals at their peace talks but conceded that progress is so elusive that timing for a further round of talks is uncertain.

Reflecting the effects of swirling violence at home and of the lack of a firm guiding hand caused by the lame duck U.S. president, both sides were inclined to hold off further talks until after President-elect Bill Clinton assumes office Jan. 20.

The current round ends Thursday and none of the delegations has discussed the timing of the next one.

"It could be there may be no meetings until after the 20th," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

"You cannot discuss... future

rounds when the present round is facing this sort of deadlock created by Israel," said Syrian delegation chief Muwaffaq Al Allaf.

Arabs and Israelis conceded privately that there was little point in another round — the ninth — until Mr. Clinton was in office, had picked his foreign policy team and had decided what role to play in the lagging talks.

President George Bush, who brought the sides together in a historic peace conference 13 months ago, plans to meet separately Thursday with each of the delegations and urge them to keep their talks going.

But even that meeting was beset by controversy when Israel objected to the make-up of the Palestinian team planning to attend, forcing the White House to scramble for a compromise.

Therefore, Mr. Bush will meet with the four-member Palestinian negotiating team Thursday, and meet Friday with Dr. Ashrawi and delegation adviser Faisal Hussein, Dr. Ashrawi said.

Israel objected to the two attending the series of meetings Thursday, saying they were only for delegation members.

Despite the planned meeting, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) says, the United States has not shown any intention of resuming its dialogue with the Tunis-based organisation.

"They may be waiting for the Israelis to pass their final bill legalising Israeli contacts with the PLO, we don't know," said a PLO spokesman in Tunis.

"The PLO has been attempting (Continued on page 5)

## Baidoa secured for relief supplies

BAIDOA (Agencies) — Jubilant Somalis and relief workers cheered the arrival of U.S. and French troops in this desperate town Wednesday, expected it to end a looters' reign of terror that has kept food from the starving.

With the Marines to ensure the safety of the 260-kilometre road from Mogadishu and secure Baidoa's airfield for big cargo planes, aid agencies prepared for an influx of hundreds of tonnes of food.

In the southern town of Bardera, meanwhile, gunmen killed 10 people and wounded 10 others at a feeding centre for the starving, an aid worker said.

Unidentified armed men attacked the feeding centre Monday after they found no food to plunder from relief stores and became angry.

"Some food warehouses were attacked. When they (the gunmen) found nothing in them they got angry and went on this wanton rampage," International Agency Care spokesman James Fennell told Reuters.

"Among those killed were several being fed," Fennell said. He could give no further details about who was killed and it was not clear why news of the massacre did not reach the outside world earlier from remote Bardera.

No mention of the incident has come from other relief agencies working in the town.

The first U.S. and French troops to push into Somalia's lawless and hungry interior since they swept ashore at the port capital Mogadishu a week ago rumbled into Baidoa, about 130

kilometres north of Bardera, just after dawn on Wednesday.

Gunmen had fled Baidoa for the bush in their battlewagon cars, known as technicals, hours before hundreds of soldiers moved into the town.

Weapons vanished from the streets and by early afternoon the multinational forces were escorting food convoys to the needy.

France restates position

France believes that Washington will rally to its view that the U.S.-led force in Somalia must disarm warring factions in order to feed the starving, a French minister said Wednesday.

"France insists on seizing the weapons, and one can think the (Continued on page 5)

Bahrainis  
promised  
a majlis

BAHRAIN (AP) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, said Wednesday he was resolved to give his subjects a wider political role through an Islamic-style consultative council.

Sheikh Isa also said the democratic experiment could be developed further in future, but did not elaborate.

In an address marking his country's 21st national day, Sheikh Isa set no deadlines however for the creation of the proposed council (majlis al shura). Its members are usually appointed.

Bahrain is closely linked with Saudi Arabia and is expected to name its council when King Fahd has named the kingdom's. To date, King Fahd has only named the speaker of the 60-member majlis he plans.

"We have resolved with God's help to establish the majlis al shura from among sincere citizens of efficiency and expertise in all fields of national action," the emir said in the address on radio and television.

Indicating progress has been made on defining its powers and duties, he said the majlis "will contribute in providing consultation and opinion... to guide our national march and help the state and its institutions in laying down (Continued on page 5)

Third leftist group  
denied legal status

By Mariam M. Shahia  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Interior Wednesday denied legal status to the third leftist party in two weeks. The Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) was informed by the ministry that it had not met the necessary requirements to receive legal status.

The secretary general of JPDP, Tayseer Zibri, and other senior party members blamed the government of Prime Minister Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker saying they held it responsible for any and all decisions made by Minister of Interior Jawdat Sbuul.

"We hope the government will reassess and reverse its decision. If not, we will have to resort to all means available to us — legally and on the popular level to assure our legal status," Mr. Zibri told reporters after he was handed the refusal by Mr. Sbuul.

The political implication of banning three leftist parties, political observers say, is bound to create an imbalance in the political make-up of Jordan's democratic era. "Indeed it puts into question the direction of the democratic era," said a government official on condition of anonymity.

The Ministry of Interior said that questionable sources of party funding, party affiliation with non-Jordanian groups and parties as well as a lack of the specifics of the party's organisational structure were its reasons for refusing to legalise the JPDP.

The ministry said that the group had failed to specifically mention the organisational basis of the party's infrastructure. The origins of its financial backers, and that the documents it filed were not clear.

JPDP officials insisted that the reasons given by the ministry were inconsistent with the "National Charter, the Constitution and the Political Parties Law."

They accused the government of political bias. "This was not a legal decision; it was a political decision," said a senior member of JPDP, Saleem Nahas.

Mr. Nahas said that with or without legal status his party and other leftist parties would continue to exist and have popular support. "We are a large highway (Continued on page 5)



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## Mubarak vows to crush extremists

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak vowed Wednesday to crush Muslim extremists to stop their attacks on foreign tourists and Egyptians but admitted that no security measures can guarantee full protection.

Mr. Mubarak said tourism, Egypt's number one foreign exchange earner, has dropped by about one third since attacks on tourists started this summer. A British tourist died and two of her companions were wounded in one shooting incident in October and five Germans were wounded in another a month later.

In an unusually long availability to the press, Mr. Mubarak spoke for about one hour about Muslim extremism after talks with visiting Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov.

This appeared to indicate Mr. Mubarak's personal preoccupa-

tion with rising Muslim extremist violence and its devastating effect on the country's growing tourism industry. Egypt last year earned \$3 billion from tourism and, before the anti-tourist attacks began, the figure had been expected to reach \$5 billion by 1994.

Mr. Mubarak said a nationwide security dragnet has led to the arrest of 90 per cent of the militants.

"We crushed them and we won't let them take any action against Egyptians or foreigners," he said.

The focus of the security operation that began Dec. 8 has been the extremist stronghold of Cairo's western suburb of Imbaba. The government said 14,000 policemen participated in the sweep that led to the arrest of more than 650 suspects.

As Mr. Mubarak spoke, more

arrests were reported in the southern province of Assiut, another extremist hotbed. Assiut security chief Major-General Abdul Wahab Al Hilali said hundreds of police raiders arrested 40 militants and confiscated weapons including swords, chains, knives and homemade bombs.

But the president acknowledged that no matter how harsh the crackdown is, it cannot guarantee full security.

"All measures have been taken to secure tourists, but small incidents happen everywhere. We can't secure 100 per cent just like any country cannot secure 100 per cent," Mr. Mubarak said in English.

Asked about criticism that the use of force against the extremists would only trigger more violence, he replied:

"I don't agree. Some want us not to control these people and let them take over. We will never let this happen."

The extremists, whose main group is Al Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), want to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with an Islamic state. Their number is estimated to be about 200,000, with only about 10,000 of them believed violent.

In addition to their usual targets, police and Christian Copts, the militants started attacking tourists this year to embarrass the government and deprive it of much needed foreign exchange. Since January, 79 people have died in the violence, all Egyptians except one. Eleven attacks on tourists have been reported.

## Arab-Jewish talks launched to promote Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Arab and Jewish leaders, normally bitter rivals, said Tuesday they have launched a joint effort to support the Middle East peace negotiations.

The American groups issued a joint appeal to President-elect Bill Clinton to pursue with top priority the peace process begun a year ago by President George Bush and former Secretary of State James Baker.

Warning that delay risks a new Middle East war, the statement said: "It is now imperative that the parties themselves, and the U.S. as well, fully reengage in the peace process... we urge the new administration to assign this task to high level personnel who can work effectively with both sides, and to take an effective role in helping move the talks forward."

The statement by officials of the National Association of Arab Americans and the American Jewish Congress was issued at a news conference as Arab Israeli negotiators struggled to keep their Washington talks on track.

The statement said that nearly 50 prominent American Arabs and Jews from diverse organizations gathered at a closed meeting for nearly three hours at a Washington hotel Monday night with representatives of the Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli government negotiating teams.

Media were barred from the Monday session in an effort to "create a maximum comfort level" for American Arabs and

Jews, many sitting together in the same room for the first time, said Thomas Smerling executive director of Project Nishma, a U.S. Jewish-financed project promoting peace with security for Israel.

The dialogue was cosponsored by the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), the American Jewish Congress (AJC) and Nishma, which is the Hebrew expression for "Let us listen."

The groups disagree over many issues but they agree strongly that the Middle East peace talks are in the national interest of the United States and of Arabs and Jews, said NAAA executive Director Khalil E. Jahshan.

"There is apprehension in both our communities that the new administration will not give enough high level attention to the peace process and be firm with all parties," Mr. Jahshan said.

Arab-Americans are "elated" that Jews and Arabs finally are negotiating across the table, Mr. Jahshan said. He attributed current violence to frustration among Palestinians over "lack of tangible results" from the talks and said some Israeli proposals have fallen "far short of promises" made by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour government.

There is only one purpose of the violence, to undermine the talks," AJC Executive Director Henry Siegman told the news conference.

## Israel welcomes Japan call to end Arab boycott

TOKYO (R) — Israel welcomes Japan's call for an end to the Arab boycott of Israeli goods and services, but does not expect quick benefits in terms of trade or investment, the head of its central bank said Wednesday.

"We came here with a medium-term strategy, not with bags for financial needs," Bank of Israel Governor Jacob A. Frenkel told Reuters in an interview.

"We don't expect anything tomorrow, but you must have pregnancy before having a baby. So we want to start the process of pregnancy. Seed must be planted now."

Mr. Frenkel arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a four-day official visit, accompanying Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The two are meeting leaders of business and government.

Several weeks ago the Japanese government called for an end to the Arab boycott, which requires Arab countries to blacklist companies doing business with Israel.

Japan relies almost completely on imports for its supply of crude oil, 70 per cent of it from the Middle East.

Many Japanese companies, fearful of losing important Arab markets and oil supplies, have declined to trade with Israel.

An official of Japan's Foreign Ministry said that when Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa met

Mr. Peres and Mr. Frenkel on Tuesday, he promised them he would raise the issue of the Arab boycott at the meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations in Tokyo next July.

"Our feeling is that the Japanese authorities are now taking the lead to convince the business community Japan is against the boycott. When we met Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, he emphasized how negatively he sees it," Mr. Frenkel said.

"The Arab World is engaging in reconstruction after the Gulf war. Kuwait waived many of its boycott restrictions, since it felt its own development was hampered," he said.

"Our links with the economic giant Japan are developing, but are insufficient."

According to Finance Ministry statistics, exports from Israel to Japan in calendar 1991 were \$737 million, against \$875 million in 1990. Japan's exports to Israel in 1991 were \$738 million, up from \$509 million in 1990.

These are negligible amounts compared to Japan's total trade. The statistics give no listing for Japanese direct investment in Israel.

Mr. Frenkel said he did not expect any quick increase in trade and investment from Japan following his visit, especially because of the economic slowdown in Japan.

## Islamic conference leader demands Bosnia intervention

TUNIS (AP) — The leader of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has urged rapid international military intervention to protect Bosnian Muslims from massacre by Serbs.

"We count on asking the international community to intervene by force to stop the Serb aggression," said Hamid Al Ghabid, the 51-nation organisation's secretary general.

Mr. Al Ghabid, who was attending a meeting Wednesday in Geneva with the United States and other Western powers on ex-Yugoslavia, spoke to jour-

ists after talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia.

"The essential thing for us is that we head in the direction of stopping hostilities, and a cease fire," he said. "Otherwise, we have to permit the Muslims to arm to defend themselves, hence lifting the arms embargo."

In Stockholm, U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger ruled out a massive military response to protect the Muslims as he tried to build a consensus for more limited force against Serbia.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli censor blocks CNN's access to Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — The military censor blocked Network's (CNN) access to its satellite for eight hours before official permission was granted, the CNN broadcaster informed. Cable News Network spokesman said that he would block the network's access to its 10:00 p.m. local time (8:00 p.m. GMT). Mr. Hoff said the blockage had no practical importance for him, as he was going to file after 10:00 p.m. anyway. He said he refused to comment on the report. "If you were censored, send it to me," he told the Associated Press. Uri Dromi, head of the press office, said CNN had committed a "grave violation of censorship regulations." Mr. Dromi confirmed that move was a "punishment" for CNN's violation of censorship earlier Tuesday. Mr. Hoff said he had a network's Atlanta headquarters that the body of a slain paramilitary border policeman, had been discovered in Jerusalem. CNN Atlanta headquarters then broadcast worldwide. The military censor called Mr. Hoff and CNN was in violation of censorship, since the police had not yet been informed of the body's discovery. It is all local and international journalists to submit news for censorship.

### KLM's Transavia to halt flights to E

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch charter airline Transavia would stop once-weekly flights to Egypt from its response to falling demand from tourists concerned about extremist violence in the country. A spokesman for KLM's Transavia CV, which is 80 per cent owned by KLM Airlines NV, said it would halt flights for an indefinite period from Jan. 17. A KLM spokesman said it had no serving Egyptian destinations. More than 72 people in a surge of violence this year as militant Muslims seek to impose an Islamic state.

### Kuwait jails Iraqi brothers for collusion

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti court has sentenced brothers to seven years in jail each on charges of colluding with Iraqi forces during their seven-month occupation of Kuwait. The court sentenced the brothers, Fadi and Muhammad, after serving their sentence. The court decided to pass their father, Taleb A., who was also charged with colluding with the Iraqis. Last year 29 convicted collaborators were sentenced to life in prison but their sentences were commuted to life in prison. Trials resumed in April with about 100 defendants appear. Some have been released without trial.

### Turkmen president in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Turkmen President Saparmyrat Niyazov arrived in Kuwait Tuesday at the start of a two-day official visit, a news agency said. The agency gave no reason for the visit. Mr. Niyazov would meet the ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah, during his stay.

### Kuwait seeking funds for border barrier

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will start raising funds to build a barrier along the Iraqi border to protect against a former Kuwaiti minister said Tuesday. "It may be an electronic fence, or wires and ditches. It is up to the government to decide," said Mr. Othman. The purpose of building the barrier is to guarantee Kuwait's external security, said Mr. Othman, minister and head of the national fund-raising committee. The "fourth wall," Kuwait, whose occupation resulted in the Gulf war, has built three protective walls in the past to ensure security against bedouin Ousaimi did not say whether the new barrier would be length of Kuwait's 207 kilometre border with Iraq. "It is to stop an army...nor is it to make up for (Kuwait's) loss of territory," he told Reuters. The committee, which consists of 12 members, is aiming to start collecting donations on Jan. 1. Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah reported last month saying the government was ready to start building a barrier, to make Kuwait's border secure.

### Saudi Arabia signs 55m deal with Airbus

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said it signed on Tuesday a deal with the Arab Satellite Communications Organization (Arabsat) for three channels on a satellite to be launched. The official Saudi Press Agency SPA said Arabsat, of which Saudi Arabia is a member, gave the kingdom a seven per cent discount because Saudi Arabia pledged to pay the amount of the satellite while it is being manufactured. It did not say whether the satellite was before or after discount. Hughes Aircraft Co. of the United States was awarded a \$250 million contract to build two communications satellites for Arabsat. The two HS 601 spacecraft is scheduled for launch in 1993 which was formed in 1976, sent its first satellite into space. It sent another one in the same year and a third in February with an operational life of 10 years.

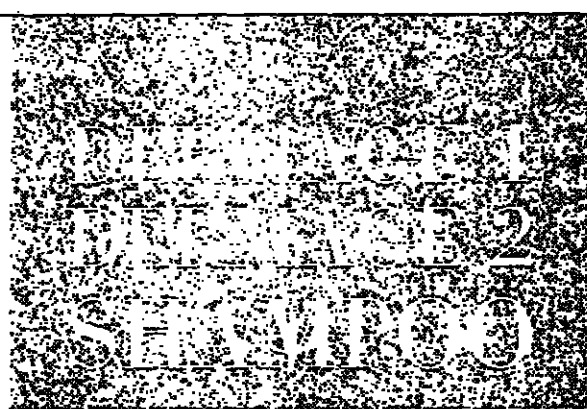
### Two Israelis feared lost in flooding

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two people were feared drowned in heavy rains and some snow pelted the occupied territories. Dozens of roads along the border when rivers overflowed their banks, including a main Ayalon highway. Lightning hit a power station in Ashkelon south of Tel Aviv, knocking out electricity to thousands of homes. Heavy snow closed roads in the Golan Heights and the Galilee, and occupied Jerusalem. Hundreds of Israeli troops and Jewish settlers were stranded in a Jewish settler whose car was abandoned and stuck near a flooded river in the occupied Bank. He was feared swept away, said the local news agency. Searches were also under way for a taxidriver who was found submerged in a swollen river near the Tel Aviv of Rishon LeZion. The stormy weather forced closure of tourists sites, but aviation authorities said Ben Gurion international airport was operating normally.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Inocence  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Les Images de l'Histoire  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Uncle Buck  
21:10 ..... Civil Wars  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Movie of the week: "Love is a Fall"

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:01 ..... Fajr  
06:34 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:28 ..... Asr  
14:13 ..... Maghreb  
16:36 ..... 'Isha  
18:01 ..... 'Isha

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Armenian International Church Tel. 927981, 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy and a rise in temperature is expected to take place. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 02 / 7  
Aqaba ..... 11 / 16  
Dead Sea ..... 04 / 9  
Jordan Valley ..... 07 / 14

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Hisham Kanana ..... 790286  
Dr. Bahjat Bader ..... 649362  
Dr. Yousef Sammour ..... 615649  
Dr. Ghaleb Samwaidh ..... 736011  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fordons pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nainouk pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 630739  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shenouk pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najla pharmacy ..... 647632  
IBRD:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Helu ..... 279773  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halam ..... 982799  
Khalifa pharmacy ..... 985417  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 895392  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 661176  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 723111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636881  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queens Aft. Airport ..... 06-53200  
HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Am. .... 642816  
Alkhal Maternity, J. Am. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malha, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmouk ..... 664114  
Shmouk Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muscher Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66112757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Islamic, Al-Muhajreen ..... 7771012  
Al-Bahar, J. Asfarieh ..... 77511726  
Army, Marfa ..... 8916115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224050  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09988732  
Al Hima Modern Hospital ..... 09999990  
IBRD:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... 021275555  
Groch Catholic Hospital ..... 02127275  
Ibn Al Nafisa Hospital ..... 021247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03134111

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**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:15 Riyadh (RJ)  
06:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)  
06:30 New Delhi (RJ)  
06:30 Beirut (RJ)  
06:30 Colombo (RJ)  
06:30 London (RJ)  
06:30 Larnaca (RJ)  
06:30 Athens (RJ)  
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
06:30 Bahrain Doha (RJ)  
06:30 Damascus (RJ)  
06:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
06:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)  
**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:15 Beirut (RJ)  
06:15 Rome (RJ)  
06:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
06:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
06:15 Paris (RJ)  
06:15 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)  
06:15 London (RJ)  
06:15 Larnaca (RJ)  
06:15 Jeddah (RJ)  
06:15 Bahrain Doha (RJ)  
06:15 Damascus (RJ)  
06:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
06:15 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)  
**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
06:15 Damascus, Paris (AF)  
06:15 Beirut (ME)  
06:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)  
06:15 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
06:15 Riyadh (SU)  
06:15 Jeddah (SU)  
06:15 Istanbul (TK)  
06:15 Dubai (EM)  
06:15 Cairo (MS)

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
12:40 ..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
13:00 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
16:30 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
17:00 ..... Dubai (EM)

### MARKET PRICES

26:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
21:50 ..... Larnaca (CV)  
**MARKET PRICES**  
Apples .....  
Bananas .....  
Beans (Mediterranean) .....  
Beans .....  
Cabbages .....  
Carrots .....  
Cauliflowers .....  
Cucumbers (large) .....  
Cucumbers (small) .....  
Eggplants .....  
Garlic .....  
Grapefruit .....  
Lemons .....  
Marrow (large) .....  
Marrow (small) .....  
Onion (dry) .....  
Onion (green) .....  
Oranges .....  
Pepper (hot) .....  
Pepper (sweet) .....  
Potatoes .....  
Tomatoes .....  
Spinach .....  
Mint .....  
Green Olive .....  
Upper market prices in Jordan

هكذا من الأصل



## Agriculture meeting concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates to a four-day meeting which discussed production of barley and animal feed ended their discussions Wednesday and issued a statement calling for the continuation of the "Al Mashreq project" to help countries of the region boost their agricultural production.

The Al Mashreq project orientates local farmers on the use of fertilisers and improved seeds. The project was financed by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab League for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and is aimed at increasing barley production and utilising pastures in dry areas which only receive up to 350 millimetres of rain.

The delegates called for the continuation of this project beyond a five-year period to help the poorer countries of the region increase their animal feed and redress their economic situation.

They also called on concerned governments to provide facilities for the transfer of modern technology in the process of rearing sheep and other animals and they expressed their support for a second phase of the Al Mashreq project which will focus mainly on agricultural extension services.

Delegates from Jordan and six other Middle Eastern states reviewed a paper by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) on means of helping individual countries acquire modern technology that suits their region and gives an important role to agricultural researches.

Syria presented a working paper on technological aspects used in the production of barley and the application of fertilisers as well as means of protecting soil.

ICARDA, which organised the meeting in Amman, said that 80 researchers and specialists from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon and Morocco attended the meetings and reviewed the progress of the project in Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

According to ICARDA the project also focus on human resource development by training technical staff and organising study tours and workshops to enhance information exchanges.

## Arab writers present list of recommendations

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee representing delegations of the Eighteenth Arab Writers Conference which started last week in Amman has drawn up Wednesday the final statement and recommendations concerning the major issues to be tackled by writers in Arab countries.

Confirming their commitment to the adoption of democracy and freedom of opinion, representatives voiced their solidarity against all forms of repression, assassination, imprisonment and exile. They also called for the need to guarantee free cultural exchange and the lifting of all forms of censorship.

The committee insisted upon the adoption of the following principles:

- The need to improve all institutions in all Arab societies, supporting them, and guarantee that they enjoy freedom and independence.
- A radical change must take place in the political, economic and social infrastructure of Arab countries as one step towards the implementation of democracy and the respect of human rights.
- A demand that the international society force the Zionist entity to sign an international treaty that bans the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- Confirmation that the achievement of a just and lasting peace would not be achieved unless U.N. resolutions are fully implemented especially those which stipulate the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the right of return, the right of self determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.
- Condemnation of the constant infringement upon the sovereignty of Iraq. All Arab regimes should call upon writers and their friends to condemn the embargo and constant interference in Iraq's interior affairs.
- Condemnation of the Western, Zionist and racial attacks on Arabs and Muslims and the escalating danger of Fascist and Nazi movements in the West. The recommendation called for a unified and strict action which would put an end to the tragedy in former Yugoslavia.
- The need to draw up suitable formulae to clear the air among Arab countries insisting upon the importance of solidarity to the achievement of the Arab peoples' aspirations.

The committee also called for the condemnation of the situation in some Arab countries, such as in Libya and Iraq to the secretary general of the United Nations Organisation, the secretary general of Arab League and also to the UNESCO.

An election for the president of the Arab Writers Union took place at the end of the session and the Jordanian writer and head of the Jordanian Writers Union, Fakhri Ka'war, won by seven votes against 4. Jordan will therefore be the headquarters of the Arab writers secretariat for two years.

## Law committee approves state security draft law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Law Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday endorsed an important article in the draft law on the State Security Court which would grant the Court of Cassation the right to overrule sentences and verdicts passed by the State Security Law.

Meeting under its Chairman Deputy Salim Al Zu'bi, the committee approved the fifth article of the draft law which substitutes articles 9 and 10 of the original law.

Under the fifth article of the draft law, the Court of Cassation would be empowered to reject a ruling by the State Security Court provided that at least five judges sit as arbiters. The committee said that the Court of Cassation should be authorised to examine cases and overrule verdicts and vindicate or indict defendants.

The committee said that the court will also have the power to direct the State Security Court towards an appropriate decision which conforms with the law. Furthermore, the committee said that the Court of Cassation will have the right to return to the State Security Court for reconsideration.

"The committee also endorsed an article related to the formation of the State Security Court as follows:

In certain circumstances and in the public interest, the prime minister shall have the right to form one or more special State Security Courts each consisting of three civilian or military judges appointed by the prime minister upon recommendation from the minister of justice. (In case of civilian judges) and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff (in case of the military).

Following the committee meeting, Mr. Zu'bi said that by allowing the Court of Cassation to overrule decisions by the State Security Court, defendants will have the right to have their cases examined by two courts.

The original draft law on the State Security Court had been passed by the Lower House of Parliament but His Majesty King Hussein returned it in accordance with Article 93 of the Constitution for re-consideration.

When the draft law in its original form was debated by the Lower House, it failed to secure the required two third majority approval and was thus referred to the law committee. According to procedures, the draft law in its new form will now be submitted to the Lower House again for approval.

The Lower House Wednesday failed to convene ordinary session for lack of quorum. Only 49



Salim Al Zu'bi members turned up for the meeting which forced the speaker to postpone the session. A statement said that parliament failed to convene in view of the prevailing bad weather conditions and the next session will be held Sunday.

## Arab labour conference to be held in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-one Arab countries represented by labour ministers in addition to representatives of Arab and international organisations concerned with labour are to attend a Arab labour conference due to be held in Amman in April, according to an announcement by the Minister Abdul Karim Al Jabari Wednesday.

The conference to be held between 5 and 12 April will review important working paper dealing with Arab women's role in development the minister said during a meeting for the the the committee entrusted with preparing for the conference. The minister said that in view of the fact that women constitute a large part of the production sectors of the Arab world the paper is important.

Arrangements for the conference were reviewed at the meeting which was attended by representatives of the various concerned departments.

The work of 10 sub-committees dealing with financial, tourist, transport, publication, registration, information, hotel arrangement, reception and supervision work pertaining to the conference was reviewed at the meeting.

The Ministry of Labour and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) will be organising the meeting in Amman.

## Artist proves pottery is more than just a handicraft

By Curt Ryan  
and Stephanie Genkin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As 1992 draws to a close, art enthusiasts in Amman flock to the year's many international exhibitions around town. At the Alla Art Gallery has the best for last.

The skill and talent of the Jordanian artist Mr. Taha shines through a collection of works on display at the gallery until 27 December.

Mr. Taha's work, which includes sculpture, calligraphy and mural design, Mr. Taha's work was described by Crown Prince Hassan as "an inspiration only to visitors but to a new generation."

Celebrated by laymen and artists in Jordan as one of the most ceramic artists, Mr. Taha's achievements with the medium marks an important contribution to the country's under-dominated artistic community.

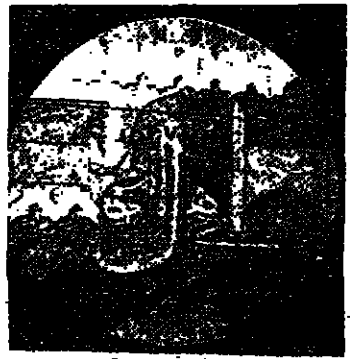
While art buffs commonly hold him in high esteem, Mr. Taha's ceramic pieces will remind visitors to his exhibition, that they can be more than a mere handicraft. His clay collection elevates ceramics from the mere of functional crafts to the realm of fine art.

Before I left Amman to study in the U.S., I was a calligrapher," recalled Mr. Taha. "I was also a potter." In 1963, he began his formal art studies at the Kennedy of Fine Arts in Baghdad. At that time, the academy trained three specialists: ceramics, sculpture, and painting. "In the beginning I studied all three," said Mr. Taha. "However, my professor soon chose me to study ceramics, and I learned quickly," he added. Mr. Taha combined his new focus on ceramics with his former trade as a calligrapher.

In the 1970s, Mr. Taha went to Cardiff in Wales. "The ceramic movement in Britain is very, very rich, and progressed rapidly after World War II. I feel that it is the best," he said.

Mr. Taha's work not only bears the mark of years spent in Britain, but also conveys a devotion to his Arab and Islamic identity. Several of his mural designs serve as artistic memorials to Jerusalem. The collection's ceramic designs also dwell on the impact of recent events in the Arab World. A series of murals featured at the exhibition specifically honours the intifadah and at the same time pays tribute to the historic landscape of Jerusalem.

"The exhibition will give art buffs of all tastes an enriching and lasting memory of the arts in Amman throughout 1992."



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## Environmental issues discussed in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Participants in a two-day seminar on the environment discussed in their second day meeting issues related to family planning, the role of non-governmental organisations in protecting the environment, and the effects of people on the environment in Aqaba city.

Family planning was tackled by Munira Shaaban, a member of the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Society, who announced that 44 per cent of the Kingdom's population is under 15 years of age, a clear indication that the birth rate in Jordan is very high.

For every woman the average number of children is 5.6, while the mother mortality rate stands at 40 for every 100,000 deliveries, she said.

The percentage of deliveries under medical supervision, Ms. Shaaban said, is 89.5 per cent, and the use of birth controls by Jordanian families is 35 per cent, she said.

Ms. Shaaban, who works as an inspector in mother and child care centres, said that most disabled persons in Jordan are born to large families. Moreover, a large number of the disabled were born at home, she added.

Human activities on the environment was dealt with by Director of the Marine Science Station in Aqaba Janti Qar, who stressed the importance of spreading awareness among the public on the proper means to protect the environment. He warned that ignorance has negative repercussions on the environment. Aqaba, he said, is clean compared to other areas. Pollution in the city results from waste discharged by some ships, but generally the authorities clean up polluted areas, he said.

Mariam Allawi of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation dealt with ways to manage homes in an environmentally-safe manner by the use of raw building materials that fit the nature of the surrounding area. In order to protect houses environmentally, she said, walls and floors should be insulated and materials used in construction should not be harmful to health. Ms. Allawi warned of the use of insecticides, chemical detergents and organic fertilisers since they are detrimental to the environment.

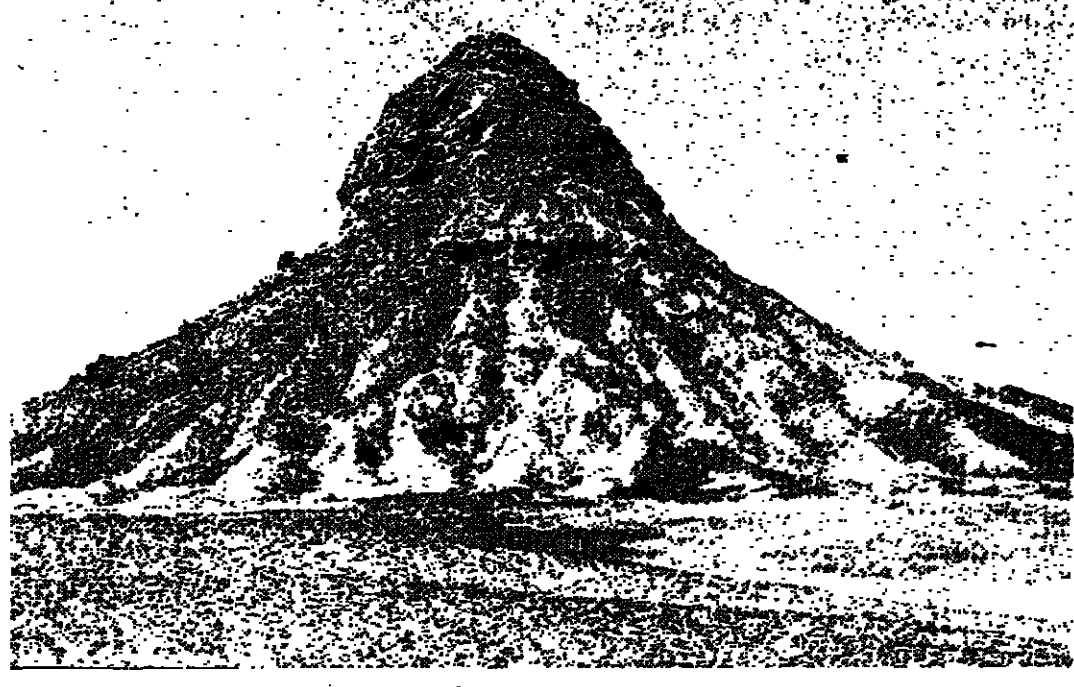
## Unexploited natural wealth waits to be tapped

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Geological surveys have established that Jordan has an abundance of non-metallic minerals and diamonds as well as semi-precious stones, and the government is planning to establish a commercial venture to tap the unexploited natural wealth, a senior official said Wednesday.

Quartz sand of unsurpassed quality used in glass industry which could yield numerous high-value by-products is one of the best assets of the Kingdom in addition to industrial minerals such as kaolinite, bentonite, dolomite and tripoli — used in paint and ceramics — as well as titanium, said Kamal Jreisat, director-general of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

"Our research data has established beyond doubt that Jordan has commercially exploitable reserves of these and other numerous other non-metallic minerals," Mr. Jreisat told the Jordan Times.



Geological experts say non-metallic minerals are in abundance in Jordan

"I have no doubt that if properly exploited these could easily beat phosphate and potash as Jordan's primary foreign-exchange earners," he said.

The Council of Ministers recently decided to set up a commercial entity to work with the private sector in mining the mineral wealth. A committee has been formed to follow up on the issue with the minister of energy and mineral resources as its chairman.

Mr. Jreisat said the shape of the company had not been determined, but that "several foreign companies have already indicated their keen interest in the venture." He did not give details.

"New data available to us now indicates that diamonds could be found in some of the 'most poor' areas in the south of Jordan," and a Sri Lankan expert had found that "semi-precious stones were also to be found in plenty" in the Kingdom, Mr. Jreisat said.

"What these projects need is the right approach," said Mr. Jreisat, adding that he had recommended the establishment of a commercial venture for the purpose as far back as six years.

The NRA is only a geological survey agency which seeks to locate and establish potential reserves of natural resources, he explained. "We never had a dedicated entity to follow up our findings and recommendations," he said. "Hopefully the new company will fill the gap now."

Many of the non-metallic

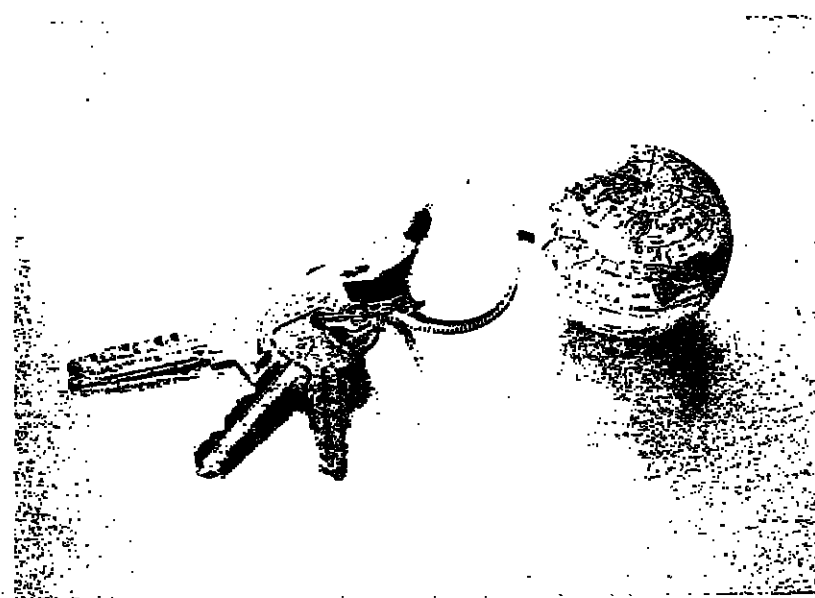
minerals found in Jordan have wide uses and are scarce in the international market and therefore will enjoy excellent marketability, he said. He cited as an example zeolite — found in the northeast — which is used as a filter for water purification as well as a neutralising agent "to absorb non-desirable gases from animal feed." Another is bentonite, which produces a lubricant extensively used in drilling for oil.

The Aqaba region holds over 100 million tonnes of ready-for-use feldspar, a prime component for ceramic tiles, while tuff — a strengthening compound for cement — is found in abundance in the northeast.

"Jordan is poor in metallic minerals, but is very rich in non-metallic minerals," said Mr. Jreisat. "Having established this as a fact, it is up to the commercial sector to exploit the assets and contribute to the national economy," he said. "On our part, we remain open for all suggestions and are ready to cooperate with creative ideas and proposals."

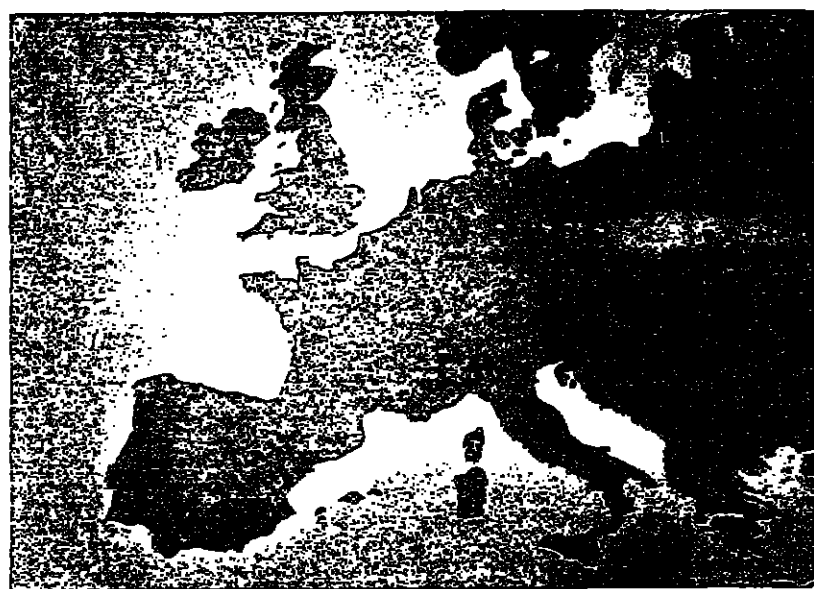
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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An exhibition of ceramics by the Jordanian artist Mahmoud Taha at Alla Art Gallery.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Hind Naser at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by painter Ufemia Rizk at Yarmouk University.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Samer Oussama at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Sculpture exhibition by Mona Sandi at Al Balka Art Gallery in Al Fuhels.
- \* Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza Fayer Al Hasani, Kaimel Al Mughanni and Lalla Shawa at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)
- \* Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by artist Kamal Al Jawhari at Housing Bank Complex Art Gallery.

### PLAY

- \* Play entitled "Waiting for Godot", directed by Sawwan Darwazah at the Royal Cultural Centre, the main theatre — 8 p.m.

### FILM

- \* A 1942 Walt Disney film entitled "Bambi" at the American Centre, at 5 p.m. (72 min.).



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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## Zone for free thought

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan, during a meeting with participants in the 18th Arab Writers Conference at the University of Jordan Tuesday, called for the establishment of a "free zone" for Arab journalists in order to free Arab press from economic, political or ideological manipulations and coercions. The Crown Prince also called for the creation of a pan-Arab publishing and distribution house that would fund Arab publishing and financially independent of provincial or ideological Arab pressures.

Prince Hassan's motive was obviously to break new ground in continuing Arab efforts to enhance both the quality and integrity of Arab thought as revealed and exposed through Arab scientific and intellectual writings. However, some of the Arab writers participating in the conference, themselves employed by their own regimes, were ill-prepared to fathom such ideas or consider incorporating them in their final resolutions. Instead, some resolutions adopted by the writers' conference Tuesday once more resorted to "condemnation" of Zionism, the West and "all the forces hostile to the nation." Those resolutions were conspicuously void of any action plan or mechanism for advancing intellectual debate. This is most unfortunate since the proposal to create a free zone for Arab writers and journalists is a progressive idea that has to be considered and debated. For as long as democracy is anathema to many Arab countries, there can be no realistic hope ever that free exchange of opinion can flourish among and within the various Arab peoples. And as long as free thought is denied existence in the heartland of the Arab World, there can never be hope to upgrade and elevate Arab intellectual and scientific knowledge.

It is unfortunate to note that at this late hour Arab intellectuals have been unable to project themselves or provide any evidence that they are ahead of the regimes they represent. If Arab writers could not understand that the fault in the Arab intellectual course lies within rather than outside, then something is fundamentally wrong in the way our intellectuals think and operate. Most bizarre, for instance, is the writers' call on their regimes to work for reconciliation while the writers themselves could not pool their resources to fight what is wrong and archaic in the Arab system. It is not a secret that Arab regimes are the main culprits behind the stifling of the freedoms of thought and expression that in turn resulted in a culture fearful of being invaded and defeated from the outside. Perhaps other writers, not so distinguished or guilty by association with repressive regimes, would identify the real problem and point their fingers to it.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the body of the kidnapped Israeli soldier has been found, the Israeli military machine is escalating its aggression on the defenceless population and the Israeli leaders are issuing one threat after another against the resistance, said Al Dastour Arabic daily Wednesday. But no doubt the Israeli leaders realise the consequences of escalation against the Palestinians, a move that can only create more violence and draw more resistance action on the part of the Palestinian people, said the daily. The paper said that the initial reaction for the killing of the Israeli soldier manifested the fact that the Israeli leaders are not willing to learn from the past and they do not realise the consequences resulting from such repression and the outcome of violence. It said that Israel will not benefit from repression and violence or the creation of an atmosphere conducive to violence and aggression. The Israeli leaders are showing the world that they are arrogant and that they can only understand the language of force which they are using against the Palestinians, the paper said. Therefore, this lust for terrorist actions and aggression can only be answered with counter measure on the part of the oppressed people, the paper added. It said that Israel can end the cycle of violence simply by responding to the call of peace and can save its people from further suffering by ending the occupation of Palestinian lands.

THE ONGOING criticism being directed against the draft law on press and publications in Jordan is motivated by the desire to enhance the process of democracy in Jordan, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Salah Abdul Samad said that certain articles in the draft law drew angry reactions from the journalists whose ideas as presented in the daily press should be taken into consideration by the Parliament before the full endorsement of the law. The writer said that public interest is not the sole responsibility of a certain person or a certain group and therefore, the law should be just and fair to all. The government ought to withdraw the draft law from Parliament and set a special committee which should include journalists to rephrase its various articles and provisions so that the outcome would be an acceptable formula for all parties, proposed the writer. He said that withdrawal of the law before it can be endorsed in its present form means that the government is keen on safeguarding the interests of all concerned parties. He said that the government and the Parliament are keen on safeguarding democracy and therefore they ought to take this step in the public's interests.

# A bad strategy can erode the Arabs' negotiating strength at the peace talks

By Radwan Abdullah

ALTHOUGH a large segment of public opinion supports the quest for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, or at least sees no harm in making the attempt, some politically-aware individuals and groups share some degree of unease over the performance of our negotiating team. The greatest concern is expressed by those who consider the success of these negotiations a matter of supreme national interest. A successful outcome is closely linked to our approach to the negotiating process itself.

What follows is a general critical evaluation of our negotiating strategy, designed to expose and amplify whatever weaknesses exist. This is not meant to depreciate several positive aspects that have already been achieved. The Arab side as a whole has scored many points with world public opinion; the process of creeping annexation of the occupied areas has been significantly slowed down and the Palestinians succeeded in defeating Israel's attempts to exclude them.

The start of political negotiations does not signal the end of conflict. And since it is true in politics, as it is true in economics, that one always tries to get as much as possible for as little as possible, attempts by the negotiating partners to influence each other are greatly intensified during the process of negotiations. A negotiating strategy is the objective as well as the influencing technique chosen to achieve it.

Following is an assessment of Jordan's negotiating posture:

- 1) The resolution of conflict must involve an eventual exchange of something or another. The land in exchange for peace formula, which we advocate, is simply the kind of exchange we find acceptable as a basis for the resolution of conflict; it is our objective. But this should not be confused with the negotiating strategy. The strategy, in addition to the goals, refers to the methods and techniques to be used in order to arrive at this exchange. We have been confusing the ends with the means.

Such a strategy becomes possible when the party adopting it becomes convinced that the two sides recognise that each has something of great value to the other. A straight forward exchange is then envisioned. Such a setting resembles a clear situation of mutual interest if the concessions the two parties make to one another have minimum costs. When such a situation exists, bargaining is hardly necessary. The political setting of the Arab-

Israeli conflict is hardly conducive to such straight forward exchange. Israel places a great value on continued control of the occupied territories while normalisation of relations with Israel is anathema to many Arabs. But even if the Arab side is ready for such an exchange, the Israelis have not expressed such willingness. Successful barter requires the readiness of both parties. A potential buyer who values a certain item more than a certain sum of money must find a potential seller who values the same sum of money more than the item in question for the deal to be made.

2) The failure of our offer for exchange reduced our strategy to one based on inducement. We try to induce the Israelis to withdraw by promising them recognition and normalisation of relations. The effectiveness of a promised reward as an instrument of inducement is a function of its size and credibility. The level of credibility, in turn, is a function of the cost of the promised reward. Thus, this technique requires that we communicate to the Israelis that their admittance to the regional system is not contrary to our interests.

This strategy does not create the conditions for negotiating with the adversary on equal terms. It is in fact a straight forward influence attempt based on a conditional commitment to reward. As such it will result in either success or failure (compliance or non-compliance). If the Israelis refuse the offer, we cannot build up the reward since normalisation is in fact our maximum available concession. Therefore, their non-acceptance of our initial offer would lead to either an impasse or continued negotiations based on our readiness to scale down our own demands.

If we communicate to the Israelis that the establishment of a conflict-free region is a cherished goal, we weaken our bargaining position. One does not need a strong inducement to strive for a certain favoured outcome. Our declared interest in ending the conflict weakens our ability to grant it as a potential concession and consequently removes it as an effective bargaining chip and weakens the very foundations of the land for peace formula to which we remain committed.

It is also a great mistake to make the question of the normalisation a foregone conclusion that is not in itself subject to negotiations as intense as those concerning the question of withdrawal. To limit the negotiations

to the price our adversary is willing to pay in return for our offer renders us helpless and gives him the initiative and total control over the pace and direction of these negotiations. The conditions of peace are, as far as we are concerned, as important as the conditions of withdrawal.

3) There is only one correct strategy for negotiating with an adversary. Such a strategy rests on the presentation of demands backed up by a threat. We threaten with continuing the policy of exclusion unless they withdraw.

Here, the necessary distinction between the means (strategy adopted to achieve a certain preferred outcome), and the end (the nature of an acceptable outcome) is made. A rational bargainer is a utility maximiser. His goal is not only to achieve a beneficial solution but the most favourable one possible by driving the interlocutor into a situation where he has to make concessions. Thus, he always starts by denying the existence of conditions favourable for a straight forward exchange.

A rational bargainer must always hide his true convictions and intentions and must assume that the adversary is doing the same. Political bargaining always entails a clash of wits and wills where each side strives to avoid making concessions by communicating his total commitment to his own demands and threats in an attempt to convince the interlocutor that a solution is possible only if he (the adversary) makes the concession. It is very clear that this is precisely what the Israelis are doing. We placed ourselves in a disadvantageous position by opting for a negotiating strategy which is a mixture of inducement and exchange and which, apart from the fact that such a strategy is inappropriate in any negotiating situation, is totally inappropriate in this particular situation where our adversary is neither willing to be induced nor ready for an exchange.

The effectiveness of this method, in sharp contrast to the inducement technique described above, rests primarily on the size and credibility of the threats and the bluffing skills of the negotiators. While inducement demands making the promised carrot as attractive as possible, compelling requires making the stick as big as possible. The first stresses a precommitment to normalise totally while the second stresses a determination to deny Israel the status of a normal regional state.

4) Our success in the negotiations will ultimately depend on two factors: The first is the value placed by the Israelis on gaining

political access to the Arab World; the second is the negative value which we place on normalisation as perceived by the Israelis. To establish that Israel has a great interest in gaining regional access establishes very little regarding their expected conduct at the negotiating table. It merely indicates how much they will be willing to concede if they are driven into a corner. Our interest lies, therefore, in convincing them that the cost of making our concession is very high while the cost of not making it is very low (i.e. the status quo is not such a bad thing). This is of value in communicating to them our concession limit (the refusal to accept an agreement that would make us actually worse off than we would be in a conflict situation).

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In this regard, the kind of impression our negotiators implant in our opponent's mind is of paramount importance. One side may be driven into making disproportionate concessions if it is convinced of the other's irrevocable commitment to its own stance. Objective reality seldom forms the basis upon which human choices are made. The image of this reality is the guide, regardless of the degree of accuracy or distortion. The art of negotiations is the art of influencing and manipulating the adversary's perception of the relevant political en-

vironment in a manner conducive to the making of choices that are highly favourable to the negotiator's interests. While it is not possible to influence the opponent's valuation of his own stakes (in the demand of concession) or costs (of continued conflict), it is however possible to influence his perception of our own valuation of our stakes and costs and the degree of commitment to our maximum demands and determination to have our way.

Our negotiators waste no time in making their feelings felt. Obsession with progress, impatience over the slow pace, exasperation with Israeli intransigence and frustration over lack of progress are signals that are being daily emitted to be cleverly exploited by our adversary. Such signals only serve to enhance the effectiveness of our enemy's highly developed skills by conveying a state of mind that is highly susceptible to penetration and manipulation. Our enemy's display of apathy and reluctance at the negotiating table is designed to trigger our impatience. Our display of frustration, therefore, only serves to reinforce their intransigence. Frustration is caused by helplessness and lack of control over variables determining a certain desired outcome. It is, therefore, a strong signal of weakness that should not be conveyed even if it is an accurate reflection of the negotiator's actual state of mind.

5) The Jordanian team's continuous barrage of briefings, statements and declarations has been most damaging. Public pronouncements should be made part and parcel of the negotiating process itself. Whatever else they are designed to achieve should be made secondary to the impact such declarations produce on our interlocutor or other interested parties capable of affecting the outcome. We should be able to differentiate very clearly between the requirements of political propaganda and public relations exercises on the one hand, and the imperatives of effective political bargaining on the other, and realise that the two may run counter to one another. The normal objectives of propaganda (principally the projection of a favourable image to public opinion) may conflict with its nature and objectives as an instrument of bargaining (principally to display commitment and show resolve, to mask one's true intentions and confuse the adversary and so forth).

Our negotiators' infatuation with the media has effectively turned the negotiations into a public display of oratory. Open negotiations tie the negotiator's hands. Tactical moves which might be vital for an effective negotiating strategy might not be pleasing to domestic or foreign public opinion. The awareness of a public audience and the irresistible desire to please it or score public relations points could lead to the presentation of unreasonable demands that could make it extremely difficult to scale them down if and when the situation warrants. Furthermore, the multiplicity of audiences makes it impossible to select a particular target. Audiences with heterogeneous interests and outlooks require radically different and perhaps conflicting manners of address, in terms of form and substance. Thus, a statement that is carefully weighed and targeted

may produce the desired effect on the selected audience but, if made in public, may produce an undesirable effect on a different audience.

6) Negotiations should be conducted with persistence, concentration of pliancy, means has no value in someone to do something would make him worse off it is hardly necessary to someone to do something would make him better off negotiating platform is a appropriate for the preparation of legal arguments and justice and fairness. This poses the existence of an objective judge who has interest in the outcome, has the power to enforce his decision. At the negotiating table, the two sides address each other, not a ter. If third parties have interest in a particular result of political calculation moral or legal considerations.

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## New book reveals little-known facts about Casablanca

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fans of the 1943 classic *Casablanca* know that Humphrey Bogart knew Hedy Lamarr as Hilda. But Louis B. Mayer wouldn't lend his glamour star to rival Warner Bros.

Wallis' next choice was the French import Michelle Morgan. But she wanted \$55,000, and Ingrid Bergman was available from David O. Selznick at \$25,000.

All of the casting seems inspired. Conrad Veidt, Peter Lorre, S.Z. Sakall, Marcel Dalio, Helmut Dantine and many lesser players were themselves refugees from Nazi Germany.

Round Up The Usual Suspects discloses that producer Wallis was unhappy with one member of the cast, Dooley Wilson (to whom Bergman said, "play it, Sam," and Bogart said, "play it"). The author remarks: "Wallis kept writing memos that

Bogart had been slated to play Rick from the beginning, but producer Hal Wallis wanted Hedy Lamarr as Hilda. But Louis B. Mayer wouldn't lend his glamour star to rival Warner Bros.

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said, 'well, if we can't do any better...' very late in the movie, he sent a memo saying, 'find me a negro actor who can sing these songs.' He didn't like Dooley Wilson's voice, either."

Mrs. Harnetz, a former film reporter for the New York Times, viewed the film more than a dozen times during her research. She doesn't remember the first time she saw *Casablanca*.

"What I remember very vividly as a small child was listening to the radio on that Academy Award night in 1944 and wanting desperately for Humphrey Bogart to win and being so unhappy when he didn't."

Paul Lukas was named Best Actor for *Watch On The Rhine*.

The lasting success of *Casablanca* has long been analysed. The author be-

lieves the nature of the script-writing was a major element.

"Howard Koch, who was a very serious playwright, wrote it serious. He gave Rick Blaine, (Bogart) a background of running guns to Ethiopia and fighting for the loyalists in the Spanish Civil War. He deepened the politics of it."

"I think the movie intrigues us today partly because of its ambiguity. People still argue whether Ingrid Bergman was really in love with Paul Henreid and only pretending with Bogart. Or whether Bogart was just a little bit relieved when she went off with Henreid."

And did the characters portrayed by Bogart and Bergman sleep together in Paris?

"Absolutely, not only in Paris. They slept together in *Casablanca*. I am quite sure. But the production code was

extremely vigorous at that time. Impure love was not allowed. Even pure love between a husband and wife could not be shown. If they were in bed together, one of them had to keep a foot on the floor," Mrs. Harnetz said.

She said *Casablanca* would have included a sex scene if it were made today. "You know what? The movie wouldn't have some of the ambiguity and sexual tension that it has now," she said.

The final "we will always have Paris" speech was filmed on Stage 1 during a July heat wave.

A heavy spray of movie fog obscured the fact that the waiting airplane was a wooden cutout. To give the plane a proper perspective, Assistant Director Lee Katz had the inspiration of hiring midgets to portray mechanics around the plane.



Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca* (file photo)

## Asian-American groups: Hollywood fosters old ethnic stereotype

By Ernest Sander  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mr. Basball has no Asian butlers or nurses. Instead, the movie trots out more modern clichés: The freewheeling, brash American running up against the conformist, rigid Japanese, sushi and low ceilings.

Asian-Americans generally don't think the film, starring Tom Selleck as an American on a Japanese baseball team, is anti-Japanese. But many said it's subtly destructive to the Asian image.

"They (Hollywood executives) feel like they need to make an excuse for why there is an Asian in a movie," said Gu Aoki, president of Media Action Network for Asian-Americans.

Asian-Americans in Hollywood make the transformation to such roles as hard-driving businessmen.

aggressive television reporters or nerdy, overachieving students, they say the new roles are as flawed as the old ones.

Indeed, a flip through the film files reveals plenty of examples of movies with Asians who are portrayed as anything from boorish to emotionless to silly: "sub-human military commanders" in *The Bridge Over The River Kwai*; a pidgin English speaking man in *Sixteen Candles*; Chinese mob leaders in *Year Of The Dragon*.

The Association for Asian-Pacific American Artists (AAPAA) gives out its Jimmie Award to movies, television shows, advertisements and companies that project Asian-Americans in a positive light. Past winners include David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*, Alan Parker's *Come See The Paradise* and *The Karate Kid* movies.

But this year no awards were presented. Nothing deserved a nomination, said AAPAA President Wendy Fujiwara Anderson.

And Asian-Americans say that, despite the Jimmie Award recipients, movies like *Year Of The Dragon* are more the norm.

In that 1985 movie, fear of controversy prompted MGM-UA to issue a disclaimer with it. At the time it was released, one Asian actor involved with the movie defended it, remarking how refreshing it was that "so many Asian faces were simply allowed to breathe..."

But these days Asian-Americans say they want to breathe in more realistic ways, and they're not getting enough chances to do that.

The screen actors guild (SAG) reports that 1,170 out of 70,000 members, or about 1.5 per cent, are Asian. By contrast, Asian-Americans

account for about 3 per cent of the country's population.

According to SAG, in 1991 some 50,075 acting jobs were performed, of which 809, or about 1.5 per cent, involved Asian actors. And out of a total 250,950 days worked by actors during the year, 3,584, also about 1.5 per cent, involved Asians. On the production end, 91 of 9,700 members, or less than 1 per cent, of the Directors Guild of America are Asians.

"Most of our clients are Asian-American, born in this country. But most of the parts they go for are as foreigners. They are constantly asked to put on an accent," said Ken White, an assistant at Guy Lee and Associates, a talent agency that represents mostly Asian-American actors. "There are very few roles where the character is actually an Asian without an accent."

Although Mr. White said

the lack of diversity in Asian-American casting is "stunning," Asian-Americans are equally concerned that moviegoers may be forming inaccurate perceptions of Asian-Americans.

The Media Action Network's Aoki says Asian-Americans are partly to blame for their ill treatment on the silver screen. An audience is less likely to hear "nigger" or "fag" than "Jap," he said, because Hollywood can use the latter with impunity.

"With Asian-Americans, you can get away with it. They don't fight back," Mr. Aoki said. "Blacks have done a good job of calling people when they think they've been insensitive to them. They've been good at warning people, 'don't mess with us. We have a big enough population and we will come down on you.'"

Tim Dang, director of an all-Asian version of Stephen

Sondheim's *Into The Woods*, said Asian-Americans suffer from disunity.

"We are so fractured. The Chinese, the Japanese, the Koreans we all have our own cultures," Mr. Dang said. "We are trying to learn (to organize) from the African-American groups and the women's groups."

So typecasting continues, and most of those interviewed said they do not expect the practice to change much.

"For the most part, stereotypes are recognizable and clichés work," said Charles Johnson, an executive producer at Universal Pictures.

Janet Yang, vice president of Oliver Stone's *Iran* Production Company, owner of the rights to Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*, also attributed the situation to an unwillingness to take creative chances.

"They only want something if it has already worked," she said.

The only way around this "odd cross between art and commerce," Ms. Yang said, is through actors and characters "that are so outstanding that you almost bypass the racial question."

For Asian-Americans, though, struggling with how to end an intense period of Asian-bashing, the issue of stereotyping transcends "entertainment."

"Because contact (between Asian-Americans and others) is so limited," said Jimmy Tokeshi of the Japanese-American Citizen's League, "we are left with the caricatures of Asian people who don't speak English well, the corporate predators, the plotters of the secret attack on Pearl Harbor, the academic nerds causing grade curves in the United

States to go up."

Several years ago, Chin, a Chinese-American, was clubbed to death by a couple of unemployed workers in Detroit, the beating, the man reportedly railed against Chin, telling him he blamed for a slump in the industry in the United States.

Hollywood is certainly the only reason for the American image of Asians, says the economist. The economic migration and the relations between the States and Japan are toxic.

Said Ms. Yang: "The public consciousness. It's all what racism is about."

## French-language music—a fete for ethnic communities



Princess Erica in concert

Some sing in French. Others do not. They are the music of French language lands and the joyous dance of peoples. "Outside (the metropole), we are the French," says one of them, the Zaire pianist Ray Léma, "because there is nothing Anglo-Saxon about our music."

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

PARIS — The Quebecois sing the same way as they speak, in French. One can hear it. Felix Leclerc and his travelling shoes, Charlebois and Lindbergh's aeroplane, Gilles Vigneault and his land of snow, Diane Dufresne and the man of her life, and Carole Laure and Fabienne Thibeault bear witness to the vitality of their community on the North-American continent.

Closer to France, Roch Voisine, a new idol, competes with his Paris cousin, Patrick Bruel, for the adulation of the young, while Richard Desjardins combines lyricism with sarcasm to the rhythm of blues and boogie for popular sages and Morane is, forever, the hero of Starmania.

Even in the United States, "Cajun" music, descended from the French minorities of Louisiana, is in fashion. Af-

ter almost disappearing, it is now very popular on records, and even in gastronomy as "gumbo," a spicy fish soup and local speciality, is a being asked for from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

"It is thanks to music that the Cajuns have once more found their honour," Pete Bergeron, in charge of a local radio station, asserts in L'Evenement De La Musique. "In every family, there has always been at least one musician. On every farm, or nearly, one can find an accordionist or a fiddler. Here people like to enjoy themselves, to eat well and to dance. Let the good times roll, as the saying goes."

Cajun music, to which all ages dance to break-neck rhythms, has its annual festival in Lafayette (in Louisiana) and its stars: Zachary Richard, Steve Riley and his Mamou Playboys, and the

group Beausoleil.

### Rai life

Creole is the language of the black slaves and their descendants. In the French West Indies, the words of zouk are in Creole. Zouk is dance and festivities. It is the pride of the French West Indians. Zouk shakes people up with its spicy percussions and its incandescent brasses. Zouk is the only medicine that we have. "Zouk-La-Sé Sel Médicament Mou Ni" by the Kassav group has sold 100,000 records, one of the best French sellers in the United States.

Haiti also speaks Creole and practises a cult handed down by the slaves, voodoo, whose rites are supposed to exorcise violence. Haiti has its music, "root music," "voodoo-adjae." Adjae calls down dance and trance and

this frenzy takes hold of the spectators who are bewitched by the concerts of the group Boukman Eksperians, which is a great hit in the United States, going against the traditional image of the Haitian immigrant as a slaughterer of hens, drug-trafficker and propagator of AIDS.

Rai is Algerian. "A kind of make-shift combination of poetry and music," deliberately licentious and to be drunk from the veins of peasant wedding songs, and impertinent. They are the voice of joyous revolt. "Rai song," says Cheb Khaled in *Le Monde*, "is gaiety, love and fiesta." Cheb Khaled, the rebel from Oran, Cheb Kader, the Moroccan from Mulhouse and Cheb Mami are the kings of Rai.

From Mali, Mory Kanté, the electric "griot" (storyteller) and Salif Keita, the "noble albinos" are well known.

But Bamako contains of singers, "griots" in children. The "griot" storytellers, singers are for ceremonies and are the ory of Black Africa. D ta Kouyaté is a "griot" his father. "The griot," says in "L'Evenement Musique," "has no prole. He is neither a civil nor a worker, nor a keeper, nor a farmer. He tells stories."

But, next to this which is still alive, a ne of modern music, mait rock, is emerging. It ponds to the unres tastes of the young. Di ké Kofa, the bobo sta Bamako says so: "The have spoken too much people want to move. Dounawé has people after the Bamako nig L'Actualite En France

## New star shines despite dark days at the Bolshoi

by Mark Trevelyan  
Reuters

MOSCOW — The grieving families raised aloft the bodies of Romeo and Juliet, the orchestra struck the last tragic chord and the Bolshoi Theatre erupted in rapturous applause.

For Inna Petrova, the cherries and flowers that greeted her debut as Juliet on a swamy Moscow night last month were fitting reward for years of waiting to dance the part and weeks of rehearsal while she feared it could end in a fiasco.

At 25, Petrova is a rising star with one of the world's most prestigious ballet troupes, playing to packed houses at home and abroad as she dances some of the top

roles in the repertoire.

But nowadays in Russia, not even the Bolshoi is immune to economic crisis and a deepening mood of gloom that leaves most people with little time and money for the arts.

"Sometimes when I'm being driven to the theatre I see queues or demonstrations and I think my God, people have such problems, some people have nothing to eat, and I'm off to the theatre. Maybe what I'm doing is no use to anyone?" Petrova said in an interview.

"But when I reflect on it, I feel the opposite: If people stop going to the theatre, communicating spiritually, thinking, taking pleasure in things, then that will be a

kind of moral degradation...so perhaps people need us after all."

A visit to the Bolshoi, with its classical pink facade and lavish gilt and red velvet interior, is still the cultural highlight of any visit to Moscow — but one that fewer and fewer Russians can afford.

Petrova's monthly salary is 20,000 roubles (\$45) — three times the average wage but equivalent to the black market price of just two good tickets to one of her performances.

On the other hand, she has access to perks like a car and a dacha (country house), and can earn hard currency on lucrative foreign tours. In December, for example, she

will dance Giselle in Italy.

"I can go to a hard currency shop to buy food, but many artists at the theatre can't afford that. Sometimes the performance probably suffers because people on stage are thinking about the problems in their lives instead of thinking about high art," she said.

In appearance, Petrova is strikingly Slav: A thin, delicate face, high cheekbones and long blonde hair. Dancing has been her dream since early childhood, when she tirelessly performed for guests at the family home near the capital.

When she was eight, friends saw a newspaper advertisement for Moscow's top ballet school and urged

her mother to put the gangling little girl forward.

With 50 or more applications for each place, the competition was intense — but she won.

At 17, after gruelling auditions with the Soviet Union's top choreographers and directors, she joined the Bolshoi — the name simply means "big" — and was dancing solo parts within a year.

A classic product of the high-pressure Soviet training system, she was made a leading soloist last year, one of a select group of ballerinas who dance the top roles in the theatre's repertoire.

To play Juliet — a role she had wanted for seven years — Petrova rehearsed almost

day and night for a month and confessed she despaired at first of blending her performance with that of her younger partner Andrei Uvarov.

"To show this whole range of feelings I had to, in a sense, fall in love with this man...at first I couldn't imagine how I would dance with him. He was shy of me and I was shy myself."

"For two weeks nothing was working out at all and I was thinking, my God, I wanted this part so much, am I going to be able to do it? Then we reached a turning point, got used to each other and about a week before the performance I knew it would work out well...thank God it turned out that way."

With every prospect of dancing until she is 35 or even beyond, Petrova hopes to extend her range to include Swan Lake and other leading roles, and has no plans for now to join the exodus of dancers leaving for the West.

"Many people have left recently...not because they didn't like working in the Bolshoi Theatre but because very many, nearly all, didn't like living in our country. They all have families and children. They all want to live better and not to worry for their future and what will happen tomorrow..."

"This theatre, and the teacher I work with, is my life. That's the main thing for me now. I've never thought of going abroad because I get

pleasure from going on here. I like working at and we often travel, but the time being this suits

More than lyricism of nical brilliance, Petrov it was "a certain 'Ru Russian soul'" that giv country's ballet its out ing world reputation.

"Despite everything happens, all the chan regimens, presidents, many interesting, sp people remain in out try," she said.

"They don't go abroa they live here, and in so what's going on aroun they don't lose thi ituality...they sincerel lieve that some day will get better."



## The 20-gram encyclopedia

By Jean-Claude Elias

The development of the laser technology in the past thirty years is reaching far beyond its original military application back in the sixties. There is hardly a technical field that has not, one way or another, benefitted from it.

The laser principle is deceptively simple. Natural light, contrary to electromagnetism, usually travels in irregular waves.

Because of this irregularity, it loses most of its energy. Laser technology consists of organising these waves and restoring to light its tremendous power and more importantly its great accuracy, measured in fractions of micrometres — 1 millimetre is 1,000 micrometres. The term comes from "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation."

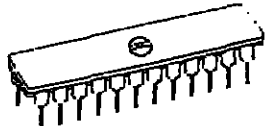
Physicians and surgeons are using more laser techniques everyday and some applications have now become routine procedures. Music CD's (compact discs) launched only eight years ago have quickly replaced the traditional "vinyl LP". They are "engraved" and played thanks to the laser beam in the CD player. Perhaps CD's represent the most obvious and popular laser application.

Surprisingly enough, CD-laser techniques were used for music before being used in computers where they are equally needed. There are different types of computer CD's: CD-ROM, WORM CD's and WE-CD.

CD-ROM — Compact Disc Read Only Memory. This is the most common type. It allows the reading of the manufacturer's pre-recorded data but doesn't allow any erasure or user-recording. Compared to standard computer magnetic hard disks, the CD-ROM is incomparably more reliable, almost perfectly reliable in fact, and one CD can hold a very large amount of data, typically 650 MB — six hundred fifty million characters.

WORM has nothing to do with the crawling animal. Write Once Read Many (WORM) means that the disk comes blank and that the user can record his or her own data on it and naturally can read it as many times as he or she needs to. But because of its very structure, optical, physical, non-magnetic, it is impossible to erase any data once it has been recorded. It is worth noting that it is precisely this impossibility to erase data that gives WORM and CD-ROM an extremely high reliability factor, and also

## chip talk



makes any computer-virus contamination very unlikely.

WE-CD is a magneto-optical disk which still uses laser but is Writeable-Erasable. It remains expensive for the private user and has not yet gained much popularity. Its magnetic property drastically reduces its reliability.

CD-ROM drives are now commercially available in Jordan, with an average price of JD600 for a complete player that can easily be installed on a Personal Computer (PC). Publishers have immediately seen the possibilities the disk offers. One 20-gram CD-ROM can hold a complete encyclopedia. The advantage is far from being limited to space saving. Once driven by a PC, the disk allows fast search, indexing and cross-referencing — a writer's dream. Some CD-ROM's come with multimedia capability — integration of still image, animated images, sound or music. You can for instance enter a keyword like "elephant" and instantly see the animal on the computer monitor, watch it walk and hear its sound. Or ask for a complete list of the mammals, etc... The CD-ROM is also a blessing for all those who use large directories and catalogues that are not only too heavy to carry but difficult to search, like trade directories, world atlas, drugs catalogues and other data bases that were till now reserved to those who had access to mainframe computers.

While the CD-ROM drive unit is quite affordable, the software — the data you buy on the disk — is not, for the time being at least. Some publishers have priced a single CD-ROM disk as much as the complete CD-ROM player. If the CD-ROM is to become as popular as its cousin, the music CD, furniture designers will have to rethink the shape and size of the bookshelves where we used to store our encyclopedias.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### BITING, BUT CLEVER DEFINITIONS

**COAGULATION:** The only proof that blood is thicker than water.

**COLLISION:** An attempt on the part of two vehicles to occupy the same space at the same time.

**COFFEE:** The morning transfusion.

**CIGARETTE:** A fire at one end, a fool at the other and a bit of tobacco in between.

**WILD:** Someone who stands halfway between an adult and a TV set.

### AMAZING FACTS

Charles III of France was called "Charles the Simple." Almost one-half of the women in the United States between the ages of eighteen and sixty-four work outside the home.

Baseball bats are made of ash.

The planet Jupiter is more than fourteen times larger than Earth.

The average person in Switzerland eats about eighteen pounds of cheese each year.

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC REQUESTS

— Bring me some books. *Jibli baad el kotob.*  
— Give me your watch. *Addini sa'tak.*  
— This is my house. *Hada beiti.*  
— I want your help. *Ayez tisa'idni.*  
— I want to see your father. *Ayez ashoof abook.*  
— I want to buy a brown jacket. *Ayez ashtri jacketta bonni.*

— I want to eat cooked-beans with olive oil. *Ayez askol fool bezait zaitun.*  
— I want to drink coffee without sugar. *Ayez asharab kahwa sada.*

— I don't want a lot. *Mish Ayez kthir.*  
— I want a little. *Ayez shwayeh.*  
— I want more. *Ayez kaman.*

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PLANTS

1. Cork is usually obtained from a variety of what well-known tree?

2. What is a herbaceous plant?

3. Are lentils named after lenses, or vice versa?

4. What kind is it that forms the fine powdery film found on fresh grapes?

5. If "fauna" means "animal life," what's the word for "plant life"?

### LAUGH TIME

— I called a specialist, and his secretary said the first appointment she could give me would be in three weeks. "Three weeks!" I exclaimed. "I may be dead by that time!"

"Oh," said the secretary, "you can always cancel an appointment."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— John d. Rockefeller borrowed a dime from his secretary one day to pay his bus fare home from his office. "Be sure to remind me of this transaction," he said.

"Oh, that's nothing, Mr. Rockefeller," the secretary replied.

"Nothing!" exclaimed Rockefeller. "Why, that's two whole years' interest on a dollar!"

See Solutions on page D

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**AFRAID:** A dream of contrary; you will recognise your difficulties and find the courage to overcome them.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**AFTERNOON:** Dream events that happen in the afternoons are generally favourable omens pertaining to personal affairs, but the interpretation depends on the details.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**AGE:** To worry about your age in a dream, or to dream you are or have aged beyond your actual years, indicates you should see a doctor; but to see aged people in a dream is an omen of great good luck. If they are poor or ragged, you may have some difficulties ahead, but you can easily overcome these by positive bold action.

### MY NAME, this is what it means

**HAKKI:** One adhering to truth.

**HAKAM:** The judge; arbiter; umpire.

**HALIM:** Mild-tempered; gentle; patient.

**HAMMAD:** One who praises or lauds too much.

**HAMED, HAMDY and HAMDAN** are also names very near to this meaning.

**HAMZA:** One of the herbaceous plants; legume.

**HAIDAR:** The lion; short.

**YAHYA/HAYYAN:** Two names indicating to live optimistically; the former is a Prophet's name.

### PUZZLES

1. How many times, on average, must a six-sided dice be tossed before every number from one to six comes up at least once.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. Here is something of a record in word squares-eight letters. As this is rather difficult, the first and last words are given. A rosette is someone who ties ribbons on chocolate-boxes (really!) while redless means without council or wisdom, witless.

The clues for the six down words, reading across from left to right (and of course the corresponding words across) are:

1. ANNUL
2. SPANGLED
3. EXPLOSIVE
4. COMMONPLACE
5. COATED
6. RAISES

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | O | S | E | T | T | E | R |
| O |   |   |   |   |   |   | E |
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| T |   |   |   |   |   |   | E |
| E |   |   |   |   |   |   | S |
| R | E | D | E | L | E | S | S |

## Nobody's child

By E. Yaghi

When Sam was a small boy, he and his parents emigrated from a small village in the mountains of Lebanon to Ellis Island where the Statue of Liberty is located and also where aliens lose their foreign identity in the process of becoming "Americanised." Before he left, his grandmother baked some fresh bread and wrapped it in white linen in case Sam and his parents got hungry on the way. She also picked some fresh mint leaves from her garden and packed them between some clothes, giving the suitcases a sweet smell of home. Just before they left, Sam told his grandmother good-bye and wrapped his small arms around her frail figure. He then clasped her withered hands for the last time and looked at her anxious black eyes. "Don't worry, grandmother. I'll come back to see you some day!"

He was both afraid and excited when his boat finally reached the shores of New York. A gigantic statue loomed over him as a vulture looms over its prey. It held the torch of liberty in one hand and silhouetted a rosy sunset in the background which Sam determined looked almost as beautiful as any in Lebanon. He looked at some strange words in a stranger language inscribed at the base of the statue which read:

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Eventually, Sam's tired and poor family settled in the midwest in an industrial town called Dodge City. His father had once been an Imam and he dreamed of someday building a mosque in America, but first, he had to provide for his young wife and son, so he got a job at the steel works and learned English the hard way. Sam and his parents were branded with the name of foreigner and it took many years for the family to fit in with the American society. Such different customs and culture they had carried with them from so far away and so long ago. Now, Lebanon seemed like just a distant dream of a remote paradise across the sea. While he was growing up, Sam was not only tormented by scenes of his former home, but also by images of his old grandmother with her black coffee eyes, her snow white hair, her homemade bread and the mint leaves she had so carefully packed on the last day she saw her son and his family, before they went off to seek the golden door of the "new country." Would he ever see her again?

Every once in a while, there would be mail from home and Sam would notice how his father ran his fingers over the curled letters that carried news from the old country. After some time, his father started a commercial business and became quite successful. Too, Sam began to fit in more and more with his American peers, but he never forgot his Lebanon. His father kept Islam alive in his home and regular hours were observed for prayer. The family fasted every Ramadan just like they had always done in the mountains of Lebanon and his mother made every effort to preserve an atmosphere of their native country.

By the time he entered high school, Sam discovered among other things, that he was a poet. He showed a remarkable gift of verse and as if out of nowhere, poems flowed from his pen like a river to the sea. And while he began spurring poetic wings, his father started building a small mosque for the tiny Muslim community in Dodge City. He had already planted olive and fig trees and watered them with loving care as if growing them brought his cherished country closer to him. At last, the little mosque was completed and the trees had grown big enough to bear fruit. Sam's father sat on the steps one Autumn afternoon enjoying his accomplishment, basking in the shade of his trees and smelling the crisp pre-winter breeze. Without warning, a bullet struck him in his chest and he fell off the stairs on his face in the mud of his miniature orchard. When Sam raced home from school upon hearing the news, his father had been removed from the pedestal of his mosque and spread out on the dining room table.

"No more letters from home, Dad. What can we ever tell

Grandmother? At least now you are free to wander around the mountains and waters of your beloved homeland," the son whispered to the frozen form.

After his father's death, Sam tried not to be bitter, but how could he ever forget how his father was wrenched from his life because of hate and prejudice? Sam wrote his first real poem on the day of the funeral. Later, he obtained a PhD from an American university and published several volumes of poetry. The first poem in all his books was the poem that he had written about the assassination of his father. During the American seige of Lebanon, Sam again felt hate and bigotry fill the air. By this time he was married and had children of his own. His grandmother had passed away not long after learning of her son's death. Sam had never kept his promise of seeing her again.

"I must go home!" Sam shouted to himself. "I must go home and see my people!"

After the fighting died down, Sam took a plane to Jordan and from there, he travelled by car to the mountains of his former home. For the second time in his life, he saw death. But he had never felt it on such a large scale. Everywhere he looked, the rich dark earth was torn and bleeding, houses were either demolished or pieces of them jutted out in gruesome columns like ghostly figures. The reality of war sunk in his mind like a heavy weight. When Sam went to his village, he searched for his grandmother's home. He was horrified to find nothing standing. It was a treacherous rubble. His whole neighbourhood was like a huge graveyard. Not too far from his old house, he noticed some books scattered about. He went to look at them and being curious, he probed a bit in the ruins of the house that had collapsed. Half buried in the blood-streaked dirt, lay a baby shoe next to fragments of a mortar which bore the label, "made in the U.S.A."

"Who does this shoe belong to? Sam wondered. "Whatever happened to the foot that belonged to the shoe? Whatever happened to the father and mother of the baby that never grew up? And what would this baby have been, a handsome bridegroom, a beautiful bride? Is this baby now an angel in heaven? No one knows!"

He stayed for two weeks in the mountain village. He talked to many people and they told him their stories of the horrors of war that they had suffered. Above, the sky still seemed the same, so calm and peaceful, and the birds still sang in the trees as if there had never been such devastation and people moved forward with their lives because they had no other choice; but war was written on their faces and recorded in their hearts. Just before he left, Sam didn't pack any green mint leaves in his suitcase or take fresh loaves of bread with him in case he got hungry. Instead, he brushed the dirt of Lebanon off the baby shoe and placed it gently in his suitcase between his clothes.

after he returned to America, he wrote a new volume of poetry in dedication to the victims of the war in Lebanon. He was asked to present his poems at a poetry recital as an honoured guest. As he spoke to his attentive audience, he tried to control his anger and his face grew red when he read the lines of his latest poem called, Nobody's Child.

The last lines of his poem went as follows:

"This shoe doesn't belong to me.

It isn't my shoe.

This shoe doesn't belong to you either.

For it's not your shoe.

This shoe is our shoe.

And it belongs to all of us!

Nobody's child is our child,

We are responsible for its death!"

When he read those lines, he remembered his assassinated father and the many dead babies and their lost shoes. He remembered the carnage and horror of war. He remembered the hate and the torn bodies and lives and the injustice of the continuing conflict in the Middle East. What good does this never-ending slaughter of Arabs do for the progress of mankind and what destiny is he to have when innocent people are daily slaughtered? Sometimes to Sam, the lamp lifted beside the golden door seemed mighty dim.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, Dec. 17

8:30 Uncle Buck

Thea takes the rap for a felony committed by her friend, but the friend admits her guilt in the end.

9:10 Civil Wars

The cases are those of a couple who wants to split their property; another couple who jointly own a restaurant and two brothers who are contesting their father's will.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Love Is A Ball

Starring: Glenn Ford and Hope Lange

### Friday, Dec. 18

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

9:10 Equal Justice

End Game

The prosecutors work on the case of a young black man accused of murdering two white men.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Rest In Peace Mrs. Columbo

11:10 Mr. Bean

### Saturday, Dec. 19

8:30 America's Funniest

### Home Videos

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Blind Judgement

Starring: Lesley Warren and Jean Smart

### Sunday, Dec. 20

8:30 Family Matters

Body Damage

Rachel will damage the old police car during the night.

9:10 National Geographic Documentary

The Miraculous

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

Star Struck

The case of Lucy who is badly beaten in the park by a young man who claims insanity.

### Monday, Dec. 21

8:30 Step By Step

Pulling Together

9:10 A Fine Romance

Double Indignity

The adventures of Louisa and

Michael in an old English palace.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Dismissal

### Tuesday, Dec. 22

8:30 Golden Girls

The girls participate in a charity auction for the benefit of sick children.

9:10 Maigret

Maigret Sets A Trap

In Montmartre a killer has struck five times, and his victims are always young women. Maigret has no lead in the case, and decides on a desperate measure. He plans to set a trap to lure the killer into the open. The newspapers report that the killer has been captured, and that evening men and women from the police force flood into the area and wait for him to strike again. A policewoman is attacked, she defends herself, and almost captures the man. He escapes but, in the struggle, a button and piece of cloth are torn from his suit. These lead to Moncin, a young designer. He no longer has the suit, but Maigret is convinced he is the killer. He takes him into custody. But then there is another murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

The Ambassador's Daughter

Starring: John Forsythe

### Wednesday, Dec. 23

8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 James Randy

Psychometry And Graphology

Do we leave 'emotional imprints' on personal objects like keys, watches and clothing? Can personality and job suitability be discovered from handwriting? And is it right that your career could depend on it? In this new series on the paranormal psychic investigator, magician, escapologist and psychic researcher James Randi looks at "Psychometry and graphology." "Tonight we're investigating claims that some people can reveal personality, emotional life and even career possibilities by examining your personal possessions," says Randi. Graphology — the art of analysing handwriting — and psychometry — the "reading" of psychic imprints on objects — are tested in front of a studio audience. Leading graphologist Duncan McIntosh hopes to demonstrate his expertise in the studio. Five volunteers line up. Armed only with handwriting samples, Duncan hopes to match each one with their jobs. Will he succeed?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus



## Too much noise not only causes illness, it can also impair intellectual powers

By Elke Bruser

**PHONOPOLLUTION** is what the Americans call noise pollution, or the type of din which serves no useful purpose but which more and more people have to live with. It is usually a by-product of progress, especially in transport, in the ever-increasing use of technology at work and not least in the world of domestic appliances. Gerald Fleischer of Giessen University department of anatomy and phytobiology describes it as acoustic machine waste.

A recent study of noise pollution caused by inner-city road traffic carried out recently by the Berlin municipal department of urban development and environmental protection confirms the hazard.

It did not deal with the well-known harmful effects of noise on health, such as high blood pressure, an increased risk of heart attacks or incurable damage to hearing, but with aspects like increased nuisance and reduced quality of life.

The findings give cause for concern. Many Berlin apartments, around 40 per cent in all, are on main roads, where it is almost always too noisy. In about 95 per cent of the rooms facing the road the recommended maximum level of 65 decibels is exceeded during the daytime.

In a fifth of these apartments the level is exceeded by as much as ten decibels. Because decibels are measured logarithmically, this means that the noise level is ten times higher than the authors of the study, who are proven experts in questions of acoustics and road transport, consider reasonable.

The noise experts leave no room for doubt as to the significance of this excessive noise: "As a rule the win-

dows have to be kept shut even in the daytime...in order to conduct a normal conversation."

Even at night the noise levels in the main roads are too high: "The recommended maximum level of 55 decibels is exceeded in almost all the road sections we studied."

It is perfectly understandable that many residents try to escape this noise terror by keeping their radios, TVs or music on all day long and wherever possible turning the volume up loud. This doesn't make it any quieter, and is another strain on their neighbours' nerves.

Those with double glazing or double windows can count themselves lucky. They can hear better in the daytime and sleep more peacefully at night. But Fleischer warns that so-called noise protection measures are usually of less benefit to victims than to culprits: motorists can still keep their foot on the accelerator.

At the same time, traffic noise levels could easily be halved by one immediate measure which is at the same time cheap, energy- and life-saving. The authors of the Berlin study recommend that as a "measure to decrease traffic noise pollution" account be taken of the fact "that a speed limit reduction from 50 to 30 kilometres per hour would mean a 2.5 decibel decrease in perceived noise levels." In other words, it would be only half as noisy.

Pedestrians would benefit from this too. The Berlin study data confirm the extent to which they are affected on busy roads. "In the pedestrian areas of these streets it is only possible to make oneself heard by raising one's voice." Psychologists Gerda Lazarus of Bochum University and Hans Lazarus, noise expert at the Federal Health and Safety Office in Dortmund, established several years ago how people affected by disturbing noise levels try to drown them out.

People automatically speak louder, they articulate sounds more slowly and the pauses become longer. The listener too has to make a greater effort. He has to strain his ears to hear. "In the long term it becomes unbearable for both," says Hans Lazarus.

Noise does not only affect communication but also concentration and, independently of that, intellectual performance. This is well-known in the case of noisy offices and has been confirmed by tests on schoolchildren.

According to Japanese and American studies, children who grow up and attend school in areas affected by noise are at a disadvantage when learning to read. Because it is harder for them to distinguish noises clearly with their hearing they do not perform as well.

The fact that they are less able to master tasks requiring thought than school-children from quieter areas, and in addition work more slowly and tire more quickly, is put down by scientists to the damage their concentration has suffered.

Both acute disturbances, as for example through aircraft flying over schools in the proximity of airports, and chronic exposure to noise in noisy residential areas play a part in this.

"The function of attentive-ness can be appropriately explained using the channel model," says August Schick of the Institute for Research into Human-Environment Relations at Oldenburg University. "According to this model, information from the sensory organs has to be passed through a restricted channel in order to be processed in

the brain. If too many messages try to get in at once, the way through quickly becomes blocked.

People who do their work, including intellectual work, to music know that it is not just a matter of the quantity of information entering but of the acoustic quality of the sound. So what is it that makes tones into a disturbing noise?

"Some of these sound characteristics are known to us," explains August Schick. "We are trying to get to the bottom of others within the framework of a post-graduate study group on psycho-acoustics, sound evaluation and effects of sound funded by the Scientific Research Association (DFG).

Naturally the degree of nuisance depends on the noise level. But there are other qualities which are particularly unpleasant: for example, a penetrating whistle in the sound, as with the old steam kettles, or sudden reverberating noises like those we know from low-flying aircraft or firing range practice, and finally rough, grinding noises like the screeching of a car's tyres as it gets off to a flying start."

Apart from the physical characteristic of the noise, the effect depends on whether the individual elements combine to form a melodious whole. Few people are disturbed by a harmonious pattern of sounds.

"Differences in individual judgement should not be underestimated," says Schick. "What gets on one person's nerves puts someone else in a good mood or has a soothing effect."

Only the beginnings of how this happens have been researched. "The fact that we only perceive sounds in meanings plays a role," Schick explains. Thus a nightingale singing early in the

morning does not usually disturb anyone, whereas screeching car tyres do.

Probably the fact that human beings automatically try to make sense of what they hear damages their attentiveness when it is too noisy. The work of interpreting diverts them from the actual task.

We can learn how important this aspect of sound perception is from people with learning difficulties, who are frequently unable to put sounds in order. "Loud noises often put them into a terrible panic. We know this from homes where low-flying aircraft thunder overhead," says Schick, who emphasises the right of people with learning difficulties to lead a peaceful existence. Small children too experience fear when they are surprised by unknown noises.

In researching the disturbing effects of noise it is also important to remember that it is a social occurrence, created and borne by human beings. It is often combined with quite different problems, particularly in the case of neighbour nuisance.

Wilfried Belschner, a health psychologist at Oldenburg University, has analysed more than 1,200 letters of complaint on behalf of the German Noise Abatement Society (DAL) in Düsseldorf. What surprised him more than anything was the fact that there is often a bigger problem underlying a complaint about a neighbour's noise.

The complainants often feel like victims of their environment. Whether or not next door's lawnmower is perceived as a nuisance does not only depend on the time of day, the racket the motor makes and the size of the lawn, but also on the relationship between the neighbours themselves. A friend is given more latitude than a foe.

DAL acoustics expert De-

tlef Bramigk considers the number of complaints about noisy neighbours and the level of willingness to go to court over things like cackling hens or church bells as a sign of our "every man for himself" society.

Neither at home nor at school are children taught to understand what noise means for other people and for themselves. In Schick's view, part of the problem is also that "nowadays people show very little consideration for their neighbours."

On the one hand, there is obviously no need to turn a blind eye, for who nowadays is dependant on others? On the other hand, often neighbours scarcely know each other.

Comparative studies show that it is different in Japan. "People there are no quieter but they value harmony among neighbours more highly than their own right to peace."

There are very good reasons why noise is becoming a more and more frequent cause for complaint in Germany. Numerous noises can neither be reduced nor switched off, and one can rarely avoid them.

It is not only the loud noises but also some gentler tones which disturb the peace, for example the sales-promoting background music in shops, folk music in Greek restaurants and Christmas carols in pedestrian precincts, markets and shops.

But there is no-one to sue about the loss of peace in public areas. Thus the spiral of noise will presumably keep on rising, for only little can be achieved with individual measures like sound-baffling walls alongside the autobahn, protective earplugs in the workplace or a few "whispering" lorries. And so presumably it will increasingly be the neighbour who is made the scapegoat — Süddeutsche Zeitung.

## Breastfeeding — the 'new' contraceptive

**FOR GENERATIONS**, women have noticed the protection breastfeeding can provide against pregnancy. Now scientists are taking a closer look at nature's contraceptive method.

Performed correctly, breastfeeding provides 98 per cent protection against pregnancy for at least six months after a mother gives birth, scientists say, provided a few simple rules are followed. This "new" method is considered to be as effective, or even more so, than many other available contraceptive methods, scientists say in a new issue of *Network*, a bulletin published by a U.S.-based non-profit research organisation called Family Health International (FHI).

For the method to work, mothers need to be "fully or nearly fully" breastfeeding. Contraception is assured until one of three events happen: The mother's menstrual period resumes, she begins feeding her infant a significant amount of food other than breastmilk, or six months has passed since her child was born. Once any of the three occurs, a mother should begin using another contraceptive method to assure protection against pregnancy.

The method, called the "lactational amenorrhea method" (LAM), has been endorsed by an international gathering of family planning experts, after numerous studies demonstrated its effectiveness. Some experts believe the method is dependable beyond six months and should be considered in effect as long as a mother's periods have not resumed. Another international meeting is being planned to discuss their views.

"Reliance on lactational amenorrhea is not the right contraceptive method for all breastfeeding women, and it is a time-limited one," says Kathy Kennedy, an FHI researcher. "Those who prefer another option should use it. But the information about LAM should be available to all breastfeeding women so that they can make a well-informed decision."

Breastfeeding suppresses fertility by inhibiting ovulation. This is achieved by a sufficient degree of nipple stimulation from breastfeeding, which affects a hormone that controls ovulation.

"In areas of the world where modern contraceptives are either unaffordable or 'unobtainable,' breastfeeding

becomes a vital in achieving adequate spacing and reducing mortality," Dr. Roger of Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, an editorial appearing in *Network*. "The challenge of the future is to protect, and support breastfeeders both developing and developed countries, for its major health benefit for the mother and her but for its contraceptive effect."

Breastfeeding is on the decline in many parts of the world, especially in areas where more work outside the home from their infants. Yet, Latin American countries Honduras, efforts to promote breastfeeding for its national value show that feeding can be encouraged. From 1981 to 1987, a campaign to educate more workers about breastfeeding resulted in new hospitals and practices ending its use. The post mothers who breastfed to 93 per cent end of the campaign, in 80 per cent.

"The message has out that breastfeeding for the baby and good mother, and also good hospitals," Dr. Pacy on FHI researcher who led on the Honduras said in *Network*. He saved substantial infant formula and medicine as well as a reduction in time.

In recent years, concern has arisen in breastfeeding — the HIV infection can be transmitted through breast milk. Expert estimate that one-third of the babies worldwide to HIV women become infected themselves.

Such transmission can place within a mother's womb, during delivery through breastfeeding, harder to transmit through breast milk, but there is some transmission," Dr. Ma Oxtoby of the U.S. Center for Disease Control told work. Yet in some cases experts say the greater risk from malnutrition other diseases mean even mothers with should continue to breast when safe and effective alternatives are not available. — Family Health International

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

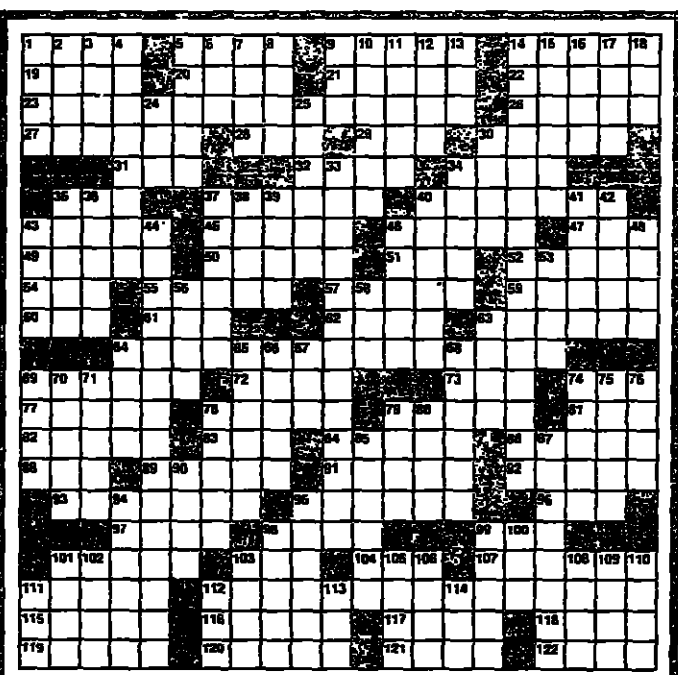
**HOW SHOCKING!**

By Dorothy B. Martin

**ACROSS**  
1 Thanks —  
5 Fire in place  
9 Mocha means  
14 Imaginative  
19 Cordelia's father  
20 Operatic solo  
21 Excuse  
22 At no time  
23 Pleasant surprise  
26 Map talk  
27 Attack  
28 Apele  
29 Period before an event  
30 Posing time of day  
31 Pory  
32 Looking for  
33 Tarnation of football  
35 Alphabetic sequence

37 Emphasis  
40 Offenders  
43 — house (delegative lobby)  
45 Pukish  
46 Serf  
47 Electrical unit  
48 Lower  
49 Cowboy spacelane  
51 Lawyer, abbr.  
52 Up and about  
54 Period before an event  
55 Cream of the crop  
57 Cardinal point  
59 No a soul  
60 It is so  
61 Occupied a chair  
62 Concerning  
63 Scored  
64 Sun

69 Procession  
72 Route  
73 Greek letter  
74 Sunshine State  
77 Alliance acronym  
78 Convent  
79 Small pie  
80 — Alper  
82 Farwell  
83 Writing fluid  
84 Former Indian VIP  
85 Andes animal  
86 Asian holiday  
87 True trinity  
89 Flash of light  
92 Expressions  
93 Sphere of action  
95 Looped ropes for support



**LAST WEEK'S CRYPTOGRAMS**  
1. Kid's top got stuck at posthole, stop sticky glob of bubbly tar, so that it could not split freely.  
2. With homonymy, I would rather wear two bulky mules than ride one bulky mule.  
3. Aging female figure skater takes a number of ballet lessons to keep herself in top shape.  
4. Hint: No letter in these cryptos can appear only once.

**CRYPTOGRAMS**  
1. U R D S E H I E N I M P E S K W X U I A U N F E F F V  
W C V L D H A V E C H I P B M F Q I E C M X  
Q M Q C A G A S X E U F F A N D A E L A T  
—By Lois H. Jones

2. C E P L J E J L J E J U P H A I E Y I Q R E P L  
I R E A U L I Y E N A U K E A C U U B T N D D T Y  
B T A Q E P N T E Y  
—By Earl Ireland

3. G S U A H I L Z S B E S S D F U L T I L O W R Y S  
G S O L J G S U A H L Z S E S J T O D S R F U L Z O  
W O R R Y S O A R A T R O A T S  
—By Barbara J. Rogg

4. O Z I C V Z W D B R X G O R I V A L X I B R T S S M  
L I C L V T I V M T S S M D S B W S A I V M L G I U X  
L I C V I V A L X G R Z Z  
—By Gordon Miller

**Diagramless** 19 x 19, By James Barriok

**ACROSS**  
1 Pouch stone  
4 Rd.  
5 Foulish fellow  
8 Cotton  
10 Very large  
13 Stone  
14 — whom the  
15 Report a cost  
16 Boisterous  
17 Scepter region  
18 Muttish

21 — a jolly good fellow  
22 Old adding device  
24 Gasoline, e.g.  
27 Guiness or  
48 Waugh  
29 Fixed gaze  
30 — am I, see —  
31 Ultimate  
33 Traveled way  
34 Ring

37 Unnail for  
38 Bard  
42 Dingly, for one  
44 Turn down  
46 Invaluable  
47 Draw, in a way  
49 Fashion  
50 Endorse  
51 Outcome  
52 Earlike handle

53 Take place  
55 Put source  
57 Sweet potato  
58 Indefinitely long  
59 Wanderers of a kind  
61 Personal effects  
65 Fly stone  
66 Gravel  
67 Rigid  
68 — the line

**DOWN**  
1 Not ready  
2 — the terrible  
3 Examination  
6 Opposing one  
7 Thrill  
9 Sprongopous  
10 Cut down  
11 Kind of toast  
12 Throw, in a curve  
13 Skin or Cotton

15 Poplar tree  
16 Unwillingness  
18 Wraith  
19 Rural  
20 Lollapalooza  
24 Came to a close  
25 — tide  
26 Secular  
28 Nursery item  
29 Delamere

32 Ham actor  
34 Stealing item  
36 Stripped  
38 — de deux  
41 Reasoner's word  
43 Tight  
44 Michigan city  
45 Brain-wave reading, abbr.

48 Ring loudly  
49 Old written characters  
51 Male train  
56 ALE comb, form  
57 Length measures  
60 Time  
62 — sea  
63 Ersatz butter  
64 Memo

## Researchers develop skin substitute; no signs of rejection

By Wilhelm Irsch

**SURGEONS** have been fervently looking for skin substitutes for years and usually use a combined product of artificial materials and natural skin components. At the Clinic for Burn and Plastic Surgery of the Rhenish-Westphalian Institute of Technology in Aachen, a promising alternative to this composite skin has been developed further by Professor Rolf Hettich and his working group.

It is based on the great breakthroughs of Chinese scientists in the Seventies: Patients, whose skin was almost completely burned, could be saved by transplanting so-called composite skin. During a project of several years' duration, and sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Research and Technology, BMFT, the scientists in Aachen have also developed a device with which this composite skin can be produced.

Human skin consists of two layers: the top layer or epidermis, and the inner skin, referred to in the medical profession as the corium. Superficial skin wounds usually heal spontaneously, whereby the cells of the epidermis multiply, thus closing the wound without leaving a scar. However, when the inner skin or the underlying tissue is damaged, scars, which can knit together, form upon closure of the wound.

Now demands are placed on the surgeon to remove the damaged tissue and cover the wound by means of a skin graft. With a fine "electric plane" he removes the intact skin, which is, at most, 0.3 millimetres thick and which consists of equal proportions of epidermis and corium.

These grafts can normally be transplanted onto the wound without any difficulties because both the covered wound and the donor site usually heal well.

However, difficulties can arise when there is not enough healthy skin on the body to cover the burnt areas. "Then there is no alternative but to turn to composite skin: Strips of skin from donors which are perforated at intervals of approximately three centimetres. Epidermal skin from the patient is inserted into the holes. If there is reason to spare the patient such treatment, epithelial cells from the epidermis can be multiplied in a test tube.

Unlike skin grafts from a donor, this foreign corium skin is not rejected. On the contrary, it fuses with the endogenous epithelial cells to form a healthy skin substitute, as the researchers in Aachen have established in animal experiments and from observations of human patients. As regards quality, however, they do not consider the transplantation of composite skin to be on a par with endogenous skin, but it is a significant alternative to the hitherto conventional methods of replacing skin.

Although this composite skin has thus far been prepared meticulously by hand, it is now possible to produce it mechanically, which is not only of assistance to surgeons in their race against time, but is also conducive to improving the quality. A computer-controlled machine punches holes in the donor's skin and fills them with the patient's skin cells, which have been cultured in a test tube — The German Research Service.

## SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- (Cork oak). (*Quercus suber*)
- A seed-producing plant that does not develop persistent woody tissue and dies down at the end of the grow season.
- Vice versa. (The lentil, *lens* in Latin, was a common food long before Alhazen described the magnifying effect of lenses, around A.D. 1030).
- Wild yeast.
- Flora.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUZZLES

- (1) FIVE. Each value appears on an even number squares-eight. Inside the chain the values match pairs, therefore a 5 at one end of the chain must be matched by 5 at the other end.
- (2) A WORD SQUARE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | O | S | E | T | T | E | R |
| O | V | E | R | R | U | L | E |
| S | E | Q | U | I | N | E | D |
| E | R | U | P | T | I | V | E |
| T | R | I | T | I | C | A | L |
| T | U | N | I | C | A | T | E |
| E | L | E | V | A | T | E | S |
| R | E | D | E | L | E | S | S |



## Features

### Leftist group denied licence

(Continued from page 1)

The people against the... of anti-democratic forces... in our society," he told Jordan Times.

Two weeks ago, both have said they would appeal the decision in court. JDP officials said they would appeal to the government to retract its decision.

### Peace talks await Clinton

(Continued from page 1)

...ties for the past two... but to no avail," said Hilal, head of the PLO mission office in Tunis.

Dr. Ashrawi, while deploring "all acts of violence," said it was born of despair among Palestinians about the chances of achieving independence from Israeli occupation.

### Brainis promised a majlis

(Continued from page 1)

...policies and programmes... to government action... its march and per-

provinces first elect three representatives from which the ruler then chooses one for the Oman majlis.

### Idea secured for relief work

(Continued from page 1)

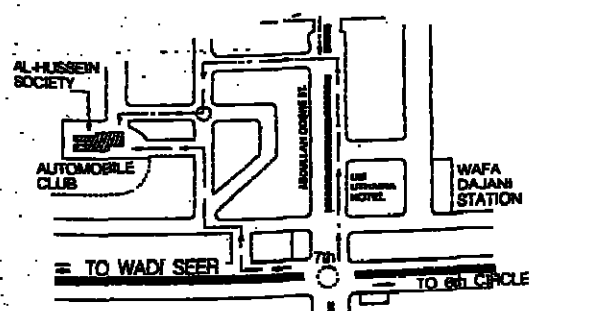
...can position will evolve to... this," government spokes-

men was not part of the mission of its troops.

### THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

will continue its annual bazaar on Sunday Dec. 20th, 1992, from 10:00 to 1:00, at Hussein Society, 7th Circle, behind the Royal Automobile Club.

International Bake sale  
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Tel.: 817599-8/817613



## Is the injustice of the civilised world to be repeated?

By Pascal B. Karmy

IT IS all very well for some Arab and Muslim states and organisations to raise hue and cry against the intervention in Somalia by the American, European and other forces under the United Nations Security Council authority and its flag and to stamp this intervention as new colonialism.

during which neither had agreed to concede an iota of his power or authority to the other?

Muslim Bosnians against the onslaught of the Serbs. The picture of events as I see it in Bosnia is indeed very similar to the sad events which took place in 1948.

against the well-armed Jews who had already occupied the majority of the Palestinian territory. The intervention of the Arab states on that date did not achieve the return of thousands of Palestinian refugees to their homeland who were already living in exile in miserable makeshift tents in the surrounding Arab countries.

have been refugees since 1948. It is high time for the Arabs to wake up from their lethargy and not simply be satisfied with blown-up declarations and statements with no concrete and effective means to put them into force.

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## Rallytour to be held Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Insurance Rallytour, which will be held Friday Dec. 18, will be the season's final auto sports event organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

The rallytour, the results of which will be entered in the Jordan Drivers' Open Championship, does not depend on car specifications or high speed but split second timing in navigation over a route which will be announced at the start.

For the first time in auto sports events in Jordan, 24 handicapped participants will be competing in the rallytour. They will take part in the second half of the event which starts at the Alia Gateway Hotel at Queen Alia International Airport. Each handicapped participant will be sponsored by an individual or company for a cost of JD 250. Proceeds of the rallytour will be donated to Al Mustaqbal Club for the Physically Handicapped.

The 55 participants in the rallytour will set-off from RACJ headquarters at 10 a.m. Friday morning. The second stage will begin at 1 p.m. Results of the rallytour will be announced at the prize giving ceremony Saturday evening.



Defending champion Paul Accola

## Tomba leads cup standings

MADONNA DI CAMPAGLIO, Italy (AP) — Alberto Tomba may be feeling in the wrong place.

He's still winless this World Cup season, but he's reached the top of the standings.

Tomba, 25, suffered his fifth consecutive upset when he finished second to young Frenchman Patrice Bianchi in a slalom in the Italian Dolomite Resort.

The skier known as "la bomba," or the bomb, for his aggressive style, once again was overcautious in one of the two runs and missed the top spot by 0.11 seconds.

About 10,000 fans from Tomba's region of Emilia came to cheer him on, picnicking on toasted bread and ham.

Along with the experts, they were baffled at the unexpected brought for Tomba, the only skier to have won consecutive

Olympic titles, in Calgary and Albertville.

Tomba placed second and third in two previous giant slaloms and had a spill, a seventh and a second place in slaloms.

This year was Tomba's worst start since 1987. Last season he had four wins and two runner-up places after the initial six gate races.

Eight races, including two downhill and one Super G, have been raced so far this season.

Defending cup champion Paul Accola of Switzerland was a distant 17th in the race and 13th overall. He trailed Tomba by 120 points.

Tomba said his leadership should be short lived.

He can load up on points in a giant slalom and a slalom scheduled in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, over the weekend.

He turns 26 on Saturday, and said he hoped to celebrate his birthday with his first season victory.

The cup calendar in January, including three downhill, one Super G and three combined, is expected to boost overall points of Marc Girardelli, Accola and Norwegian Kjetil Andre Aamodt.

He was inducted into the tennis hall of fame in 1985, six years after a heart attack forced his retirement. He had a quadruple bypass operation in 1979 and a double bypass in 1983. Still, he served from 1981-1985 as U.S. Davis Cup captain.

But Ashe made the biggest headlines of his life earlier this year when he announced that he had the AIDS virus.

Ashe, who said he apparently contracted the virus from a blood transfusion he received during his second bypass, became a high profile activist in the campaign to find an AIDS cure.

He founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS, receiving support throughout the tennis world in his bid to raise \$5 million starting with a start-studded exhibition just before the U.S. Open.

He recently received the AIDS leadership award from the Harvard AIDS Institute.

Ashe has also been an outspoken opponent of South Africa's apartheid policies and has written a three-volume history of black athletes. "A Hard Road to Glory: A History of African-American Athletes."

"He has always stood up and always been counted for," Mulvoy said. "The South Africa thing, his health, the world of tennis. They don't make them like that anymore."

Ashe won the U.S. Open in 1968 and finished the year ranked number one. He won the Australian Open in 1970 and upset Jimmy Connors to win the Wimbledon Crown in 1975. He is still the only black man to have won those Grand Slam events.

They were people who after their active days as an athlete were finished decided they were not finished," Ashe said of Robinson, who broke the colour barrier in major league baseball, and Bradley, who became a U.S. senator after a successful professional basketball career.

Ashe, 49, the most prominent black male tennis player in history, has also distinguished himself by his commitment to ideals and his courage in the face of two life-threatening illnesses — AIDS and heart disease.

In accepting the award, Ashe hailed Jackie Robinson and Bill Bradley among his inspirations for his commitment to political and social causes.

"They were people who after their active days as an athlete were finished decided they were not finished," Ashe said of Robinson, who broke the colour barrier in major league baseball, and Bradley, who became a U.S. senator after a successful professional basketball career.

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## Chess legend Bobby Fischer indicted

WASHINGTON (R) — Chess legend Bobby Fischer was indicted Tuesday on one criminal charge for defying U.S. and U.N. sanctions by playing a match against rival Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia, a prosecutor announced.

U.S. attorney Jay Stephens told a news conference that Fischer was charged with violating the international emergency economic powers law by engaging in a commercial transaction in Yugoslavia.

President George Bush, acting in accordance with U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, in June barred U.S. citizens from engaging in certain commercial transactions with Yugoslavia.

"At a time where there is a grave international crisis in Yugoslavia ... it is not too much

to ask that Bobby Fischer comply with U.S. law instead of lining his own pockets," Stephens said. "Bobby Fischer, like anyone else, should be held accountable for his actions."

Stephens said a warrant has been issued for Fischer's arrest. He reportedly has remained in Yugoslavia.

Stephens said the United States has an extradition treaty with Yugoslavia, but was unsure if Fischer would be turned over.

Fischer became a legend in chess when he beat the Soviet champion Spassky 20 years ago in Reykjavik, Iceland to become world champion.

After emerging from self-imposed seclusion in September, he again beat Spassky, now a French citizen, by 10 games to five, in a marathon rematch that ended in November.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 1st division basketball matches to be played Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four matches will be played Thursday in the First Division Basketball Championship organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF). Al Orthodoxy play Al Watan and Homenet play Al Jazeera in Amman, while Al Abbas play Al Hussein and Al Ahli play Al Jalil in Irbid.

#### French Motorcycling Grand Prix axed

GENEVA (R) — The 1993 French Motorcycling Grand Prix was scrapped Wednesday because of the country's tough new laws on tobacco advertising. The International Motorcycling Federation said the decision had been taken jointly with the organizers and promoters of the Grand Prix circuit. The move follows the decision last week by the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) to strike the French Formula One race off their world championship calendar. FISA said there were no guarantees cars and equipment would not be seized after a French court decision to fine the Williams team \$5.6 million for carrying cigarette advertising in the Australian Grand Prix which was screened in France.

#### WBA championship belts stolen

CARACAS (AP) — An awards ceremony Tuesday for welterweight boxing champion Christanto Espana was cancelled after his victor's belt was stolen at gunpoint from a boxing official. Also stolen were the prize belt for the winner of the WBA flyweight title match Tuesday between Aquiles Guzman and David Griman of Venezuela and a belt belonging to Guzman, said Alberto Sarmiento, a WBA executive.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Only by being charming and especially considerate in your actions with others will you be able to overcome the triple Moon square to Uranus, Neptune and Mars that is ruling the day.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You would be wise to do so attend to your usual routines that one of a different background to your own will be impressed and lend you much support.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many good ideas where adding to your present good things of life are concerned so be prepared to put them into immediate effect for best results.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use this time to find out exactly where you stand with those whom you regard as partners and by the deeds they are performing, not just from words.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get a better insight into the pleasures which can both bring you a good time as well as be profitable otherwise to you now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can do those things today of an outside nature that will make whatever your vocational activities more operative to handle and successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your aspirations to have every-

thing on a basis that is comfortable to you can easily be put in motion with just a little extra thought on your part.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider all phases and aspects of your practical problems now and do nothing in a rush or you miss out on some benefit awaiting your acceptance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have the chance to find out just what changes your attachment would like you or both of you to make in order to gain some long range objectives.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you want to get along well with a restless and vivacious associate it is necessary you be more open to listen to that persons stand-points.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the day for you to use all of those excellent angles that are so nature for you in achieving whatever your intimate purposes happen to be.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You will have to walk a tightrope today to avoid some run on where a member of your family and an influential outsider are concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Some situation is come to light that make you wonder just how you will handle them but think in terms of what adds to your basic security and all will be well.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH  
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#### SHOW AND TELL

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NO TRUMP  
♠ A 2  
♥ A 2  
♦ K 9 6 5  
♣ K J 9 3

WEST  
♠ 4  
♥ A 10 7 5  
♦ 10 8 7 4  
♣ K 7 6 2

EAST  
♠ 9 8 5  
♥ K Q J 8 6 4  
♦ Void  
♣ A 10 4

SOUTH  
♠ K Q 10 7 6 3  
♥ Void  
♦ A Q J 3 2  
♣ 8 5

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 1 ♠ 1 ♣  
4 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠  
Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣

Usually, the auction is a vehicle to describe your holding to partner. However, once in awhile a situation develops where you can use the bidding for lead direction. This hand comes to mind.

With the vulnerability favoring neither side, West decided on a full-blooded four-heart preempt after South overcalled East's one-heart

opening bid with one spade. An unimaginative East would have simply bid five hearts competitively. The better action is to make a lead-directing bid of five diamonds—since it is impossible that you would want to play in diamonds after locating an excellent heart fit, the bid can only be to direct the defense. Absolutely per was reached. East-West could make five hearts as the cards lie, but not six. And East's double confirmed the fact a diamond lead was wanted.

Had East bid a lazy five hearts, West would surely have led a heart and declarer would have had no problem raking in 11 tricks. After the lead-directing bid, however, the killing defense was easy.

West led a low diamond and East ruffed. Obviously, the defense were not going to get any tricks in hearts. Since West's lead of a low diamond showed a potential entry in the lower-ranking side suit, in this case clubs, East decided to trust partner and protect against South holding a singleton club by returning a low club. In with the king, West gave partner another diamond ruff and the ace of clubs completed a two-trick set.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the Moon Trine Venus and Saturn, conjunct Jupiter the responsibilities you have that seem difficult, won't be if you get at them early in the day and cooperate fully with others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look for some inspiration within yourself by which you can make a greater expression of the abundance which is necessary for you to have the things you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well your own need for more beauty and harmony in your life and you carry see ways to gain it, then carry through despite some obstacles.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take some time out now to quietly but effectively get into the behind the scenes activities that must be conscientiously done before you can go forward.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with an understanding friend early and let that person know your intimate aims, then don't try to tell him/her how to get them for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get together with a bigwig this morning to let your capabilities be known and then you can get some support so they can bring you more worldly acclaim.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Start your drive toward that

new growth and development in your life or breakfast and keep it despite problems.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) A close companion you the way to gain material ways to additional purposes to that follow exactly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you are able to get along with a plan you joint benefit.

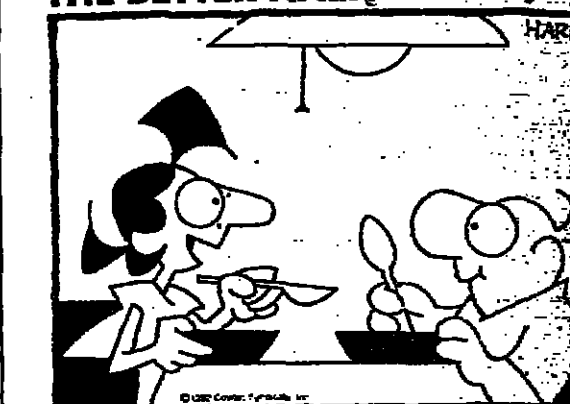
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to do whatever you wish to do and to enjoy it evening to achieve a constructive.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can best means by which you across that inspired with an ability which can dreams come true.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time to forget yourself in the world and to enjoy it through with their own.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever situation have agreed to do will boost in the right direction be put into motion.

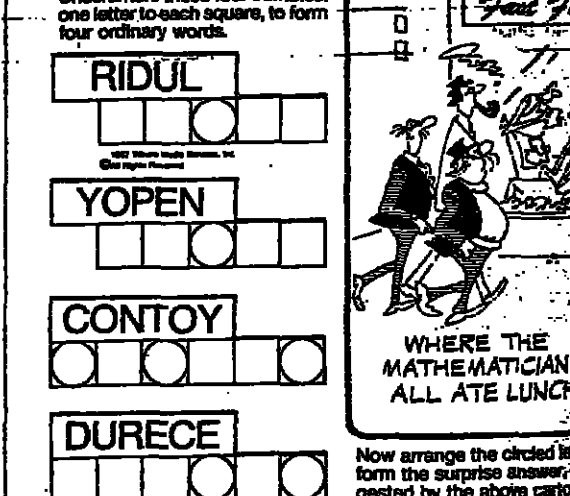
### THE BETTER HALF



"Whoever writes the best love letter in their alphabet soup wins a foot massage!"

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to a square, to form four ordinary words.



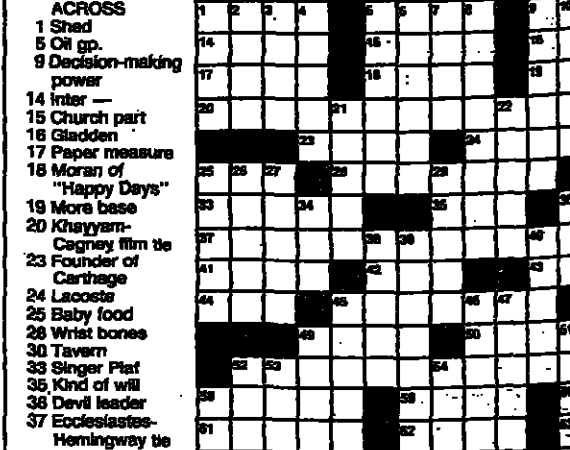
Print answer here: AT THE

Yesterday's Jumble: DUNCE BUILT SHAKEN MUSTER

Answer: If your neighbors' dog is too noisy, you may try to do this—BARK AT THEM

### THE Daily Crossword

by Charles R. Woodard



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution

1 Across: MARTIA NAME

2 Across: HONEY

3 Across: HONEY

4 Across: HONEY

5 Across: HONEY

6 Across: HONEY

7 Across: HONEY

8 Across: HONEY

9 Across: HONEY

10 Across: HONEY

11 Across: HONEY

12 Across: HONEY

13 Across: HONEY

14 Across: HONEY

15 Across: HONEY

16 Across: HONEY

17 Across: HONEY

18 Across: HONEY

19 Across: HONEY

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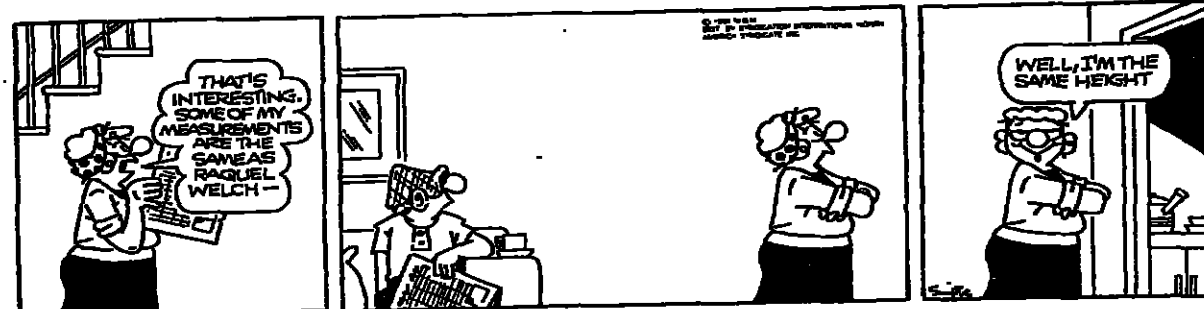
THE FINEST FRENCH & SWISS CHEESES  
- HAM, MORTADELLA, SALAME  
- POULTRY & BEEF COLD CUTS  
- CHRISTMAS CAKE, CHOCOLATE DELIGHTS

Selections Choice

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff





# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1992

## Financial Markets

| Currency               | New York Close | Tel Aviv Close |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sterling Pound         | 1.5670         | 1.5745         |
| Deutsche Mark          | 1.5675         | 1.5645         |
| Swiss Franc            | 1.4100         | 1.4068         |
| French Franc           | 5.3575         | 5.3500         |
| Japanese Yen           | 123.95         | 123.67         |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2515         | 1.2575         |

| Currency               | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar            | 3.50  | 3.56   | 3.59   | 4.12    |
| Sterling Pound         | 7.56  | 7.18   | 6.93   | 6.56    |
| Deutsche Mark          | 9.18  | 9.00   | 8.62   | 7.93    |
| Swiss Franc            | 6.15  | 6.15   | 5.93   | 5.62    |
| French Franc           | 11.00 | 10.75  | 10.00  | 9.12    |
| Japanese Yen           | 3.84  | 5.75   | 3.68   | 3.59    |
| European Currency Unit | 10.93 | 10.75  | 10.25  | 9.25    |

| Metal | USD/oz | JDM/oz | Metal  | USD/oz | JDM/oz |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Gold  | 334.90 | 6.60   | Silver | 5.71   | .080   |

| Currency       | Bid     | Offer   |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar    | 0.6670  | 0.6690  |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0602  | 1.0656  |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.4384  | 0.4406  |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.4875  | 0.4899  |
| French Franc   | 0.1284  | 0.1290  |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.5539  | 0.5567  |
| Dutch Guilder  | 0.3900  | 0.3920  |
| Swedish Krona  | 0.1015  | 0.1020  |
| Italian Lira   | 0.0491  | 0.0493  |
| Belgian Franc  | 0.02123 | 0.02135 |

| Currency       | Bid     | Offer   |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Lebanese Lira  | 0.03615 | 0.03628 |
| Saudi Riyal    | 0.1829  | 0.1840  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | 1.2600  | 2.3000  |
| Qatari Riyal   | 0.1861  | 0.1872  |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2020  | 0.2150  |
| Omani Riyal    | 1.7560  | 1.7820  |
| UAE Dirham     | 0.1861  | 0.1872  |
| Greek Drachma  | 0.3320  | 0.3420  |
| Cypriot Pound  | 1.4633  | 1.4833  |

| Index            | 14.12.92 Close | 15.12.92 Close |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All-Share        | 166.45         | 167.93         |
| Banking Sector   | 120.61         | 120.67         |
| Insurance Sector | 179.41         | 182.96         |
| Industry Sector  | 226.42         | 230.24         |
| Services Sector  | 240.75         | 240.14         |

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

|                   |                   |                  |             |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| One U.S. dollar   | 1.2798/803        | Canadian dollar  | 1.5595/605  |
|                   | 1.7520/60         | Deutschemarks    | 1.7520/60   |
|                   | 1.3990/4000       | Dutch guilders   | 32.06/10    |
|                   | 5.3235/85         | Swiss francs     | 1405/1410   |
|                   | 123.65/75         | Belgian francs   | 123.65/75   |
|                   | 6.8050/150        | French francs    | 1405/1410   |
|                   | 6.6900/7000       | Italian lire     | 123.65/75   |
|                   | 6.0100/200        | Japanese yen     | 6.8050/150  |
|                   | 1.5742/52         | Swedish crowns   | 6.6900/7000 |
| One sterling      |                   | Norwegian crowns | 6.0100/200  |
| One ounce of gold | \$335.25/\$335.75 | Danish crowns    | 1.5742/52   |

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

| COMPANY'S NAME                       | TRADING PREVIOUS | OPENING | CLOSING |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK                  | 34,965           | 3,700   | 3,700   |
| JORDAN BANK                          | 36,864           | 2,470   | 2,460   |
| JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK               | 3,078            | 3,400   | 3,410   |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK               | 1,600            | 3,200   | 3,200   |
| JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK              | 77,082           | 3,170   | 3,160   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT | 3,750            | 3,800   | 3,790   |
| JORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN    | 873              | 3,170   | 3,150   |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK                 | 126,458          | 4,270   | 4,260   |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK     | 26,941           | 6,520   | 6,500   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 254,589          | 1,850   | 1,840   |
| JORDAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT        | 47,260           | 1,830   | 1,840   |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES        | 87,034           | 4,150   | 4,140   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 6,270            | 3,140   | 3,140   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 16,947           | 4,570   | 4,560   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 32,700           | 0.12    | 0.123   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 43,426           | 10,575  | 10,560  |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 17,500           | 12.10   | 12.10   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 3,470            | 2.12    | 2.12    |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 25,371           | 1,550   | 1,540   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 16,713           | 2,970   | 2,960   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 29,178           | 2,720   | 2,710   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 11,112           | 6.25    | 6.25    |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 17,500           | 12.10   | 12.10   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 2,100            | 1.02    | 1.02    |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 12,121           | 1,270   | 1,260   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 365,438          | 2,750   | 2,740   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 43,558           | 0.710   | 0.710   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 41,432           | 1,220   | 1,210   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 33,465           | 1,210   | 1,200   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 39,638           | 6.870   | 6.870   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 11,900           | 5.170   | 5.170   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 18,752           | 10.12   | 10.12   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 26,171           | 10.12   | 10.12   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 1,329            | 0.075   | 0.075   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 21,521           | 11.050  | 11.050  |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 22,281           | 6.670   | 6.670   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 43,388           | 6.220   | 6.220   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 301,528          | 22.800  | 22.800  |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 31,940           | 5.850   | 5.850   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 542,429          | 9.900   | 10.000  |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 11,778           | 3.970   | 3.970   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 58,440           | 28.100  | 28.100  |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 20,048           | 6.300   | 6.260   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 387,826          | 0.950   | 0.950   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 20,933           | 3.380   | 3.310   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 1,950            | 6.520   | 6.500   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 242,131          | 4.220   | 4.140   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 13,656           | 1.610   | 1.610   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 125,263          | 12.400  | 12.400  |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 43,000           | 4.350   | 4.300   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 15,635           | 2.660   | 2.650   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 157,137          | 1.370   | 1.380   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 84,913           | 3.280   | 3.280   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 1,075            | 3.800   | 3.750   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 21,923           | 6.840   | 6.900   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 53,343           | 4.840   | 4.800   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 116,010          | 1.680   | 1.680   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 43,688           | 2.420   | 2.420   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 131,119          | 0.400   | 0.400   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 258,325          | 5.760   | 5.730   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 22,124           | 3.135   | 3.100   |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD       | 4,862            | 8.110   | 8.110   |

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## Clinton warns health care can bankrupt United States

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — President-elect Bill Clinton said Tuesday he leaned towards spurring the U.S. economy with tax cuts and additional spending, but those must be tied to reducing health care costs that threaten to "bankrupt the country."

Mr. Clinton interrupted a theoretical discussion of what the economy needs with a table-pounding lecture to business, labour and academic leaders that broke the calm of his economic conference on its second and final day.

He interjected after leading economists recommended he jump-start the economy with \$20 billion to \$60 billion a year in fiscal stimulus over a two-year period after taking office in January.

He noted one expert's statement that alleviating the credit crunch by persuading banks to increase loans could inject \$80 billion into the economy.

And Mr. Clinton brushed aside another expert's recommendation that he tackle reforming federal programmes that provide aid and money to the poor and

elderly, by noting one such programme — social security — takes in \$70 billion a year more than it spends.

"I don't mean we shouldn't do the stimulus," Mr. Clinton said. "I haven't made the decision about how much and what, but I'm saying, let's not get fixated on stuff that is also out there that has to be dealt with."

Mr. Clinton said the economists were talking about the stimulus package "like the whole future of the republic depended on it" when exploding health care costs loom as the most dangerous threat to average Americans.

"We are kidding each other," he said, pounding a fist on the table. "We are all just sitting here making this up, if we think that we can fiddle around with the entitlements and all this other stuff and get control of this budget, if you don't do something on health care. It is a joke. It is going to bankrupt the country."

Entitlement programmes generally involve federal aid for the poor and elderly, such as

social security, the institution which spends most of its funds providing pensions for retired workers.

Mr. Clinton's extraordinary televised gathering of economic and social experts moved from the problems discussed in Monday's 11-hour session to possible solutions on how to put people back to work and still make cuts in the budget deficit.

Two leading economists, Alan Sinai of the Boston Co. and Nobel-winner James Tobin of Yale, both recommended an immediate stimulus once Mr. Clinton takes office on Jan. 20.

Mr. Tobin's prescription for the ailing U.S. economy would include \$50 to \$60 billion in new spending and investment tax credits for each of the next two years, directing attention first to putting people back to work in America's inner cities then focusing on education and rebuilding roads and bridges.

But Mr. Sinai said a stimulus package of \$20 billion to \$30 billion over two years should be sufficient.

He said \$50 to \$60 billion

"would send the wrong signal to the markets" and "raise the suspicions that Mr. Clinton and the Democratic administration Congress planned to spend the money on."

Mr. Clinton's designated economic adviser, Leonard Stein, a Democrat from California, said that any stimulus package that is not big enough to get the economy out of the term deficit reduction.

"Congress has to be tough on sugar but hates to cut the vineyard," said Mr. Stein, who has been a voice in the discussions.

Another cautionary note was sounded by Brookings Institution economist Henry Kissinger, who warned Mr. Clinton that reform would produce savings in your pocket.

Mr. Aaron said the deficit would require a "cut in the defence budget" to take on political subsidies, the U.S. space agency's proposed space station, and other benefits, and civilian and military government pensions.

## Yemeni government approves plan for economic changes

SANAA (R) — The Yemeni government approved Tuesday a wide-ranging economic package designed to prevent a repetition of last week's price riots.

The package mixes cuts in some areas of government spending with extra spending on salaries and on food subsidies.

It was approved at a second joint meeting in two days between the cabinet and the ruling presidential council. State television gave extensive details of the plan.

Government salaries will go up 40 per cent. The state will continue to finance imports of rice, wheat, flour and medicines and will hold their prices at present levels through 1993.

The television said the government also planned to reinforce its price control departments.

"Prices were the main cause of

the riots in which 12 people were killed, 90 injured and hundreds of shops destroyed or looted in the capital Sanaa and other towns last week.

On the austerity side, Yemen will lay off diplomats and close down 14 embassies and several military, commercial, cultural and press offices abroad, the television said.

The state will stop paying for students to study abroad and stop transferring money for those studying at their own expense.

All ministries and government organisations must stop buying new cars and sell off some of their old ones.

Government offices may not buy new furniture and travel allowances for civil servants will be cut 30 per cent. Allowances for medical treatment abroad will

also be smaller.

The plan envisages "gradually reducing inflation, lowering the budget deficit and increasing production," television said.

The budget deficit is about 20 billion riyals (\$1.67 billion) a year and inflation is about 100 per cent a year.

Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh, who the opposition said had been in seclusion at home because of differences with President Saleh, did not attend Tuesday's meeting. He was seen on television during Monday's meeting.

The government recommended a new banking law on foreign currency dealings and the creation of national investment com-

panies to encourage investment.

The meeting drew all political parties to sign a "compact of honour" to oust Saleh from power.

It also called for a meeting of all political parties to sign a "compact of honour" to oust Saleh from power.

It urged the two main parties, President Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), to end the south's political dialogue.

Opposition forces between the YSP and the GPC have been at the heart of the dialogue.

The parties have been at the heart of the dialogue.

## IBM plans to cut work in '93 in new shakeup force by 25,000

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. Tuesday unveiled a massive downsizing plan for 1993, shaking Wall Street with the admission that its dividend is no longer safe and that its core business is no longer king.

Shareholders who up to now have bought IBM stock mainly for its rich dividend yielded violently, sending the shares down 10.7 per cent to an 11-year low.

IBM stock tumbled \$6.75 to \$56.125 a share on the New York Stock Exchange, where it was by far the most active issue of the day. It was last that low in late 1981.

The world's biggest computer maker said it will eliminate 25,000 jobs, or 8.3 per cent of its estimated 1992 payroll, and operate its storage, printer and personal computer businesses as self-sufficient companies.

It also announced plans to reduce manufacturing capacity in selected areas, including the mainframe computer division that provides 60 per cent of annual sales.

Overall development spending will be cut by about \$1 billion in 1993. Capital spending also will be cut by an unspecified amount, and IBM said it also will reduce sales, general and administrative expenses by about \$1 billion.

The plan will cost shareholders \$6 billion in the form of a charge against earnings in the fourth quarter, a period for which the company said it will probably now break even.

"The actions we are announcing today demonstrate IBM's continuing resolve to deal aggressively with the difficult transition that is occurring in the computer industry," IBM Chairman John

Akers said in a statement. "The result will be a stronger and more prosperous IBM."

The company's \$4.84 annual dividend provides a rich 8.6 per cent yield, in comparison with other investment options, including money market funds yielding under three per cent.

"We did not earn it in 1991 and we did not earn it in 1992 ... and I am worried about it in 1993," IBM chief financial officer Frank Metz told analysts in reference to the dividend, which has never been cut in IBM's 78-year history.

Although a major restructuring was widely expected, analysts attributed the huge drop in share price to once-optimistic institutional investors who suddenly found their hopes shattered.

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## U.N. chief, Vance urge 'no outside intervention' in Bosnia

GENEVA (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and his Yugoslav crisis mediator Cyrus Vance urged major powers Wednesday to resist mounting public pressure for military action against Bosnia's rebel Serbs.

In a message to a meeting of 29 countries, including 18 foreign ministers, to discuss the war in Bosnia, Dr. Ghali said any outside intervention could escalate the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The road ahead lies through continuous negotiations in good faith in the spirit of the United Nations Charter...not in actions which would serve to continue or escalate the violence," he said, according to an official text.

Mr. Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, told the ministers they would be heading for disaster if they approved any form of military action now.

"Practically speaking, there are no serious alternatives to a negotiated political settlement," he declared.

The message from the two came amid mounting pressure for action against the Bosnian Serbs.

The United States and France have already begun drafting a U.N. Security Council resolution enforcing a military "no-fly zone" over Bosnia repeatedly breached by the Serbs. Diplomats say a resolution could be adopted later this week.

The U.N. secretary-general did not refer to the "no-fly zone" in his message to the conference, but pointedly warned against giving in to "short-term nostrums."

"Understandable emotion must be balanced by sombre

appreciation of the risks and benefits. Short-term nostrums must be examined in the light of their contribution to long-range stability," he said.

But Mr. Vance made clear he opposed military action to keep Bosnian Serb aircraft on the ground, arguing any violations of the "no-fly" resolution had little or no military significance.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who arrived early and uninvited for the Geneva talks, said any such action would be regarded as "an act of aggression against the Serbian people."

"The international community is making a terrible mistake by pressing only one side any by that encouraging the other sides to continue with fights," Mr. Karadzic told reporters. "What motivation have Muslim or Croatian side to stop fighting?"

Apart from enforcing the no-fly zone, the United States is pushing for the establishment of a Nuremberg-style war crimes tribunal to punish perpetrators of human rights abuses.

The Geneva meeting, held in the framework of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, has been billed as a chance to review progress more than three months after ministers' first met in London.

Dr. Ghali has asked NATO for access to contingency plans for three possible military operations in the former Yugoslavia should the Security Council authorise them, U.N. officials and diplomats said Tuesday.

The operations include enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, the establishment of safe havens for civi-

lians in Bosnia and ways of preventing the war from spilling over into Kosovo and Macedonia.

In response, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner sent a letter agreeing to share plans with the United Nations following a meeting Monday with ambassadors from the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members.

NATO members also asked its military planners to formally draw up contingency plans for three operations, the sources said.

But diplomats cautioned that Dr. Ghali's request was a preliminary probe and did not mean automatic authorisation by the council.

Meanwhile, the Belgrade-based news agency, Tanjug, reported that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin was helping the government of the rump Yugoslavia Tuesday formulate a joint peace plan.

It said Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic sent his special adviser Svetozar Stojanovic to Geneva to work on the plan.

Serb leaders reacted with fear and defiance to Western warnings of military intervention — with one commander claiming it "would be suicidal" for foreign troops to enter.

But some Serb leaders, including headline Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, were reportedly pressing for a speedy end to the fighting.

In Sarajevo, Tuesday's fighting destroyed the city's water pumps, but U.N. officials said they hoped aid flights into the struggling capital could resume Wednesday after a two-week interruption.

Talk of Western military intervention has increased recently because of fears that Serbia, the dominant partner in the smaller Yugoslavia, will let the Bosnian war spill over into other ethnically tense areas.

"Any such intervention would be suicidal," Maj. Gen. Milan Gvero, second-in-command of Bosnian Serb troops, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from his Pale headquarters, just east of Sarajevo.

"We will have to defend ourselves because we have nowhere to go," he said.

Mr. Milosevic, in a statement on Tanjug News Agency, said the threats to intervene were "timed on the eve of the elections...to frighten us into starting to behave as the architects of the new world order expect us to."

He vowed to continue to act "in accordance with our interests."

Still, despite his blunt talk ahead of Sunday's presidential elections, he and other Yugoslav leaders were said to be pressuring Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic to end the fighting.

Mr. Karadzic met late Monday with Mr. Milosevic, Mr. Cosic and federal army commanders, said sources close to the talks.

The urged Mr. Karadzic to stop the fighting, fearing Western troops could hit not only Bosnia but Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Karadzic has said the "parliament" of his self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic will declare the war over this week and try to stop the bloodbath by year's end.

## Khmer Rouge seizes 21 U.N. hostages

PHNOM PENH (R) — The militant Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction has taken 21 U.N. peacekeepers hostage in a central Cambodian province where other "blue berets" were held captive earlier this month, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Negotiations were under way for the men's release.

One Indonesian officer, 14 Indonesian paratroopers, four U.N. military observers — from the United States, China, France and Senegal — and two Khmer interpreters were seized Tuesday and Wednesday, the spokesman said.

On Dec. 1, Khmer Rouge guerrillas took six U.N. peacekeepers prisoner at a point in Kompong Thom province, 160 kilometres north of Phnom Penh. The six were released unharmed three days later.

The province has been the scene of the worst ceasefire violations since the signing of the U.N.-sponsored Paris peace agreement in October, 1991.

"We don't think they're in any kind of danger and we're confident they'll be released very shortly," Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said of the latest victims.

He said the senior Khmer Rouge official in Phnom Penh, Chun Sikhorn, had ordered the men's release and they "should

be free tonight or early tomorrow."

Such an order brought freedom for the three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander, held in the earlier hostage drama.

They had been accused by a local Khmer Rouge commander of spying for the Phnom Penh government.

Mr. Falt said UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi of Japan and military commander Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, an Australian, were closely following the situation.

Mr. Falt said early reports indicated the peacekeepers were taken prisoner by a local Khmer Rouge commander acting on his own.

"We will certainly draw to their (Khmer Rouge) attention the serious implication of this action," he said.

A negotiating team made up of an Indonesian officer and 11 paratroopers was in position 500 metres from the hostage site at Phum O'Sala, the U.N. spokesman said.

The latest incident began at noon Tuesday when two of the military observers radioed sector headquarters in Kompong Thom town that they were travelling to O'Sala hamlet to meet a local Khmer Rouge commander.

A second patrol of two military observers accompanied by the Indonesian officer and his men

plus the two interpreters set off in search of their colleagues Wednesday morning.

Early Wednesday afternoon sector headquarters in Kompong Thom received a report that the second group had been taken hostage and were being held against their will at O'Sala, 10 kilometres east of the provincial capital.

U.N. peacekeepers will increase patrols of Cambodian trouble spots and form quick-reaction forces to handle emergency duties, Mr. Falt said Tuesday.

"Quick-reaction forces will be ready to deploy immediately in an emergency situation," he told a news briefing in Phnom Penh.

The new forces and the extra patrols of areas troubled by ceasefire violations would start in the new year with the aim of deploying peacekeeping soldiers relative to specific threats, he said.

The quick-response forces would be drawn from each of the U.N. infantry battalions in Cambodia and their training will emphasise fast deployment by helicopter and vehicle, an UNTAC military officer said. The announcement of new units coincides with increasing ceasefire violations and heightened military tension, although Mr. Falt denied the formation of the new units was related to the violations and tension.

## 2 blasts shake London's Oxford Street

LONDON (R) — Two blasts shook London's crowded Oxford Street shopping area Wednesday, shocking Christmas shoppers and injuring at least two people.

The first blast rocked the John Lewis Department Store, sending glass showering into the street. Police said a bomb appeared to have been left in a toilet.

Minutes later another bomb went off in nearby Cavendish Square, in a car or litter bin. Emergency services said two people were injured.

"There was a huge blast and smoke and pieces of paper and metal flying in the air," said eyewitness Emma Gray who was in a cafe behind John Lewis when the first explosion occurred.

The London Ambulance Service said two ambulances and a paramedic unit were evacuating the area at the time of the first explosion and police said an announcement of telephone warnings had been given for the blasts around Oxford Street, London's most famous shopping street.

Britain is in the grip of the worst mainland bombing campaign by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British control of Northern Ireland, since the 1970s and has accompanied its spate of bombings with coded warnings.

The IRA did not immediately claim responsibility for the bombs but anti-terrorist experts said it was a bid by the IRA to frighten Christmas shoppers from using the centre of the city.

## Rao locked in battle with Hindu party

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has sacked three state governments in an all-out war against a powerful pro-Hindu party accused of abetting the demolition of a mosque and fomenting communal violence.

A presidential proclamation Tuesday night placed Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), under New Delhi's direct rule.

An official government spokesman said the decision was a "cabinet meeting" by Mr. Rao before he conveyed to President Shankar Dayal Sharma for action.

As a protest, the federal government averted security forces across India, much of which had been recovering from communal violence and round-the-clock curfews.

The BJP described the federal government's action as "murder of democracy" and demanded mid-term election.

"It's a declaration of a war against democracy. The people will give a fitting reply," said the BJP's senior leader Atal Behari Vajpayee.

But the ruling Congress Party and other opposition groups supporting it have welcomed the dismissal, which followed a ban on communal groups.

The government last Thursday banned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and the Bhajarang Dal, all linked with the BJP. It also proscribed two Muslim religious groups.

The BJP backed a campaign by the three Hindu groups to build a temple at a disputed site where the 16th century mosque stood in the northern town of Ayodhya — before it was razed by frenzied Hindu mobs on Dec. 6.

Militant Hindus say the site was the birthplace of the warrior god-king Lord Rama and a temple must be built there.

The BJP government of Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is lo-

cated, was dismissed immediately after the mosque was destroyed. The demolition sparked communal violence in which some 1,200 people died.

The government also arrested BJP parliamentary leader Lal Krishna Advani and party President Murli Manohar Joshi, along with others, on charges of fomenting communal violence.

The BJP had won four state governments and become the largest opposition party in parliament on the back of its emotive temple campaign.

BJP vice-president Krishan Lal Sharma said the federal government's action in sacking the state governments sounded a "death knell for the democratic and federal functioning of the Indian constitution."

"The party will not take lying down any such onslaught on the Indian democracy and will fight back with all its might."

BJP leaders said the party had a contingency plan to fight the government politically and constitutionally.

## Bush: Clinton will keep U.S. a global leader

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush, who repeatedly warned voters about Bill Clinton's foreign policy inexperience during the election campaign, now says he believes the president-elect will keep America in the forefront of world affairs.

Mr. Bush, who Tuesday urged Americans to ignore isolationist calls for less involvement in international diplomacy, predicted Mr. Clinton will honour U.S. obligations worldwide.

During a speech summarising his foreign policy beliefs and accomplishments, Mr. Bush told more than 7,000 people at Texas A.M. University that future generations of Americans will "pay dearly" if the United States ignores the rest of the world to care for its problems at home.

"In 36 days we will have a new president," Mr. Bush said. "And I am confident, I am very confident that he will do his level best to serve the cause that I have outlined."

"He's going to have my support," Mr. Bush said, "but it is more important...that he have your support."

Saying he intends to "stay out of his way" once Mr. Clinton becomes president on Jan. 20, Mr. Bush stressed that America needs to maintain its role as a global leader in order to control its own fate.

"Our choice as a people is simple," Mr. Bush said in his speech at the university located in College Station, Texas. "We can either shape our times or we can let the times shape us...at a price frightening to contemplate."

Noting the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Bush warned that the "new world in time could be as menacing as the old." He said the United States must continue to foster and support the spread of fledgling democracies.

"A retreat from American leadership, from American involvement would be a mistake for which future generations, indeed our own children, would pay dearly," he told the crowd at the school where his presidential library will be built.

Mr. Bush was criticised during the presidential campaign for spending too much time on foreign affairs while neglecting a prolonged recession at home which has cost thousands of Americans their jobs.

Mr. Bush, who has been U.S. envoy to China, ambassador to the United Nations, director of the CIA and vice president as well as president, had used scathing rhetoric during the presidential campaign to cast Mr. Clinton as a novice in foreign affairs.

But lately Mr. Bush has gone out of his way to be gracious towards the man whose highest elective office before winning the White House was the Arkansas governorship.

Although Mr. Clinton has vowed to make reviving the U.S. economy his chief priority as president, since the election he has taken pains to stress his concerns for foreign affairs.

His experience in international diplomacy, however, falls far short of Mr. Bush's and has generated concern in various world capitals about Mr. Clinton's ability to fill his predecessor's shoes.

Mr. Bush's remarks about Mr. Clinton appeared to be designed to send reassuring signals to other world leaders that the next president of the White House does not intend to abandon established U.S. policies.

Urgent efforts to resolve the row at NATO Headquarters so far have failed.

"It looks very much like this will have to be thrashed out between the ministers on Thursday," said another alliance diplomat. "There could well be a row."

Eastern European nations, many of whom are keen on closer ties with NATO eventual membership in the alliance, have been pressing the French to back down.

If the NATO allies can overcome the problem Thursday, the way will be clear for a wider peacekeeping agreement Friday at a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, a 37-nation body linking NATO with all former Warsaw Pact members.

## COLUMBIA

### Diana commits herself to charity work

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana pledged to a separation from her throne Prince Charles in a public speech since last announcement of the split, the princess told a conference of voluntary workers.

"Wherever I go, I will be certain of this — one day together will continue to change," she said.

The 31-year-old princess, who heads a number of charities and is involved in others, was speaking at a conference of the drink and drug Turning Point, of which she has been patron for five years.

Princess Diana, who is wearing a black and grey skirt, princess Diana confidently amid a camera flashes of the need to the old, handicapped and less. "Especially now as Christmas brings its own painfulness so many people are in need, play such a major role in reality the true meaning of Christmas, that of peace and hope," she said.

Fleming family by James Bond notebooks

LONDON (R) — The notebook of James Bond Ian Fleming, filled with copy on spies, women and gun bought by his family for £22,400 at a London auction. Experts had valued £30,000 (\$45,000). Nicholas Lucy Fleming, and "James Bond" author, bought the James file containing observations on Russians, "cities of the crime, women, gambling, plots and women," as the paper put it. At the £22,400, a suit and a monogrammed slipper were bought by Fleming were bought by their donor as the bid well short of expectation.

Nicholas Henderson, British ambassador to Washington, and a close friend of Fleming, paid £418 (\$650) for the slippers, well below the hoped-for £2,000 (\$3,127 to \$4,690). "I bought them in a store for a frustrated auctioneer to take to the packed room, about to restart the bidding at £310 when no one took starting price of £600."

Japan minister apologises for slur on foreigners

TOKYO (R) — New Japan Labour Minister Masahiko Kamei made apologies of a criticising foreigners with saying he had been misled. "Foreigners do not know why they are being left far behind Japan," Mr. Kamei said. "Mr. Murakami told reporters Monday, after to Kyoto News Agency, wanted to say that economic development by resources Japan was due to its work diligence," he said at Tokyo news conference. Foreign Ministry spokesman Masahiko Kamei told reporters that this was not a serious issue. "He returned a certain statement which had been misunderstood. I think (of the issue) so serious."

Cluedo kills off country parson

LONDON (R) — The maker of the whodunnit board game Cluedo has decided to drop country parson as a suspect sparking dismay among enthusiasts and fears it reflects decline of the clergy in Britain.

Waddingtons Games, which has made the game since 1949, said it was replacing a parson by a businessman in more suitable for the 1990s. "Crime writer Heald told the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "This is disgraceful. They want to write out anyone who make more sense to kill the colonel after the defeat of the Boer War."

The Telegraph said: "If Church of England needed funds bad news about its marginalisation from British life, here it is. Cluedo players will be told to murder Dr. Black found at the bottom of the stairs of sprawling mansion called 'The Close. Characters and possible murder weapons are moved around the board by throws of dice. Cluedo faces increasing competition from electronic games such as Nintendo Game Boy, which has sold 250,000 sets and worldwide sales now total 100 million."

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Seoul fires 3 more regional officials

SEOUL (AP) — The government Wednesday fired three more regional officials for allegedly plotting to rig Friday's presidential election. A mayor has already been dismissed for the same case, after an opposition party Tuesday made public a tape recording of what it said was a secret meeting where the mayor and local officials allegedly plotted campaign strategy. The three officials fired Wednesday were the regional chiefs of the police, the nation's spy agency and army intelligence — all appointed by the government. By law, government officials cannot campaign in the election. The fired Pusan mayor, Kim Young Hwan, admitted that he attended the 7 a.m. meeting last Friday but denied that they plotted to rig the election. Pusan, the nation's largest port and second largest city, 325 kilometres south of Seoul, is the political home of majority party candidate Kim Young Sam.

#### Yeltsin, Kohl back early troop pullout

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday approved a deal to pull Russian troops out of eastern Germany six months earlier than planned, German delegation sources said. Mr. Yeltsin gained two extra concessions from a draft drawn up before Mr. Kohl's visit to Moscow. Russia will receive an extra \$50 million marks (\$350 million) of German aid instead of \$30 million (\$320 million). Russia will also be given more time to begin service payments on 17.6 billion marks (\$1.28 billion) owed to former east Germany, the sources said. "I am very pleased with the agreement in view of the original Russian demands for more than 10 billion marks (\$6.4 billion)," German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said later. The agreement would not place excessive burdens on the German budget. "It is sustainable," he said.

#### Albania applies to join NATO

BRUSSELS (R) — Albania, warning that war will spread through the Balkans, told NATO Wednesday it was applying to join the Western alliance, the first former member of the Warsaw Pact to do so since the end of the cold war. Albanian President Sali Berisha, on his first visit to alliance headquarters, told NATO his country would not allow "ethnic cleansing" to start in the troubled Serbian province of Kosovo, where most of the people are ethnic Albanians. He appealed for "peacekeeping forces to be sent to Kosovo to stop the Yugoslav conflict spreading." "Albania could not tolerate, is not prepared to tolerate, ethnic cleansing (in Kosovo)," he told ambassadors from the 16 NATO nations and Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, "A Balkan war (will) very probably start." Mr. Berisha made no direct link between the threat of a wider war in the Balkans and his country's application for NATO membership, but said Albanians regarded the alliance as a pillar of stability in Europe.

#### Suicide doctor assists in 2 more cases

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Two more women killed themselves with help from suicide-machine inventor Jack Kevorkian, hours before Michigan's governor signed a law that will temporarily ban assisted suicides. Both women — the seventh and eighth since 1990 to die with Dr. Kevorkian's help — had attended a news conference with him 12 days ago to protest the legislation. The state's lack of such a ban was cited when charges against Dr. Kevorkian were dropped in the first three deaths he aided. Dr. Kevorkian, a retired pathologist whose medical licence has been suspended, was by their sides when Marguerite Tate, 70, and Marcella Lawrence, 67, committed suicide at Ms. Tate's home. Both were acutely ill.

#### Hanoi welcomes U.S. easing of embargo

HANOI (R) — Vietnamese officials have welcomed a U.S. decision to ease an embargo by allowing American firms to set up offices in Vietnam, but urged Washington to lift sanctions and normalise ties with Hanoi. "We welcome the news and it is an encouraging gesture, but the U.S. side must go further," said Ho Xuan Dich, head of a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry office helping U.S. experts resolve the fate of American servicemen missing from the Vietnam War. "If the two sides normalise ties, it would create favourable conditions for solving the MIA (missing-in-action) issue," he told Reuters at Hanoi's airport before handing to the U.S. military remains of Americans killed before the war ended in 1975.

#### Renewed fighting reported in Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — Fierce fighting was reported between National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels and the rival ULIMO militia around the strategic Bong Mines, rebel radio said Wednesday. The radio quoted fleeing civilians as saying that fighting in settlements around the disputed iron ore mine has been under way for the past four days. Military sources in Monrovia said that if ULIMO (United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy) were to capture the town.

## Russian ministers have no plans to resign

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's reformist economic ministers have no plans to resign for the time being despite the fall of radical acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, a well-placed government official said Wednesday.

"At the moment, none of them are thinking of resigning in the near future," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

President Boris Yeltsin ditched Mr. Gaidar Monday for former Soviet technocrat Viktor Chernomyrdin, triggering speculation that the young team running the government's radical economic reforms would step down immediately.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, formerly energy minister, asked the cabinet to stay on. Key economic members had said previously they would resign if Mr. Gaidar went.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Mr. Yeltsin Wednesday asked Economics Minister Andrei Nekuchayev, whom he criticised in October for performing unsatisfactorily, to stay in his post.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko Wednesday said he did not expect the government to resign en masse and said Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais had decided to stay in the government, Interfax News Agency reported.

Two of the top four radicals, Economics Minister Andrei Nekuchayev and Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin, took part in a meeting between Mr. Yeltsin and visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who was in parliament for discussions on next year's budget, has already given conflicting signals about the policies he will adopt and the make-up of his government.

## Azeris, Armenians trade charges at CSCE

STOCKHOLM (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other Tuesday of escalating their armed conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, thwarting peace efforts by a European Security conference.

Armenian Foreign Minister Arman Kirakossian said Azerbaijan had shelled Armenian cities along the border region from Dec. 8, adding: "Owing to the destructive position of the Azeri delegation we didn't come to any positive conclusions."

Azeri Foreign Minister Tofig Gassimov, one of 51 ministers attending a two-day meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), fought back by charging Armenia with starting a new offensive on Dec. 10.

## NATO aims for landmark peacekeeping deal with former foes

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO hopes to strike a landmark deal this week with former Warsaw Pact enemies on joint peacekeeping missions in Europe, but must first solve a row with France Thursday over the alliance's post-cold war role.

Diplomats said they hoped alliance foreign ministers meeting in Brussels Thursday can overcome objections from Paris, which is reluctant to expand the role of the U.S.-led alliance beyond the defence of its 16 member states.

If ministers succeed in persuading France, a meeting of NATO with Eastern European nations and former Soviet republics on Friday is then expected to reach agreement on joint planning, training and use of forces for peacekeeping missions.

"Everyone, including our cooperation partners to the East, wants to do this except the French," said one North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) diplomat. "The big question is whether we can get around their objections."

With pressure growing for tougher Western action in former Yugoslavia, the ministers will also discuss contingency plans for enforcing the U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia, creating safe havens for civilians and preventing a wider Balkan war.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has asked NATO for access to those contingency plans should the Security Council authorise them.

But he told a Geneva conference on the war in former Yugoslavia Wednesday it should keep faith with negotiations and avoid any action that could escalate violence.

"The road ahead lies through continuous negotiations in good faith in the spirit of the United Nations charter...not in actions which would serve to continue or escalate the violence," he said in a message to the conference.

The conflict has added fresh urgency to NATO's planning for a new peacekeeping role, which would allow the alliance to help the United Nations or the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in missions like the one in Bosnia.

NATO defence minister agreed last week that peacekeeping should be part of the alliance's new mission. But the agreement of all 16 members is needed first.

France, which quit NATO's military wing in 1966 in protest at what it saw as U.S. domination of European security, does not take part in meetings of defence ministers.

The French deny they want to undermine NATO but diplomats say Paris is keen to develop more independent European institutions and is worried the alliance may undercut the authority of the CSCE.

France insists any detailed decisions on peacekeeping missions must be taken by all 16 members, which would take power away from the defence planning wing of the alliance. Until that happens, France has told NATO it will not agree.

The United States and other allies insist NATO, which built up a vast military structure during the cold war, must take on this new role if it is to remain relevant.

Urgent efforts to resolve the row at NATO Headquarters so far have failed.

"It looks very much like this will have to be thrashed out between the ministers on Thursday," said